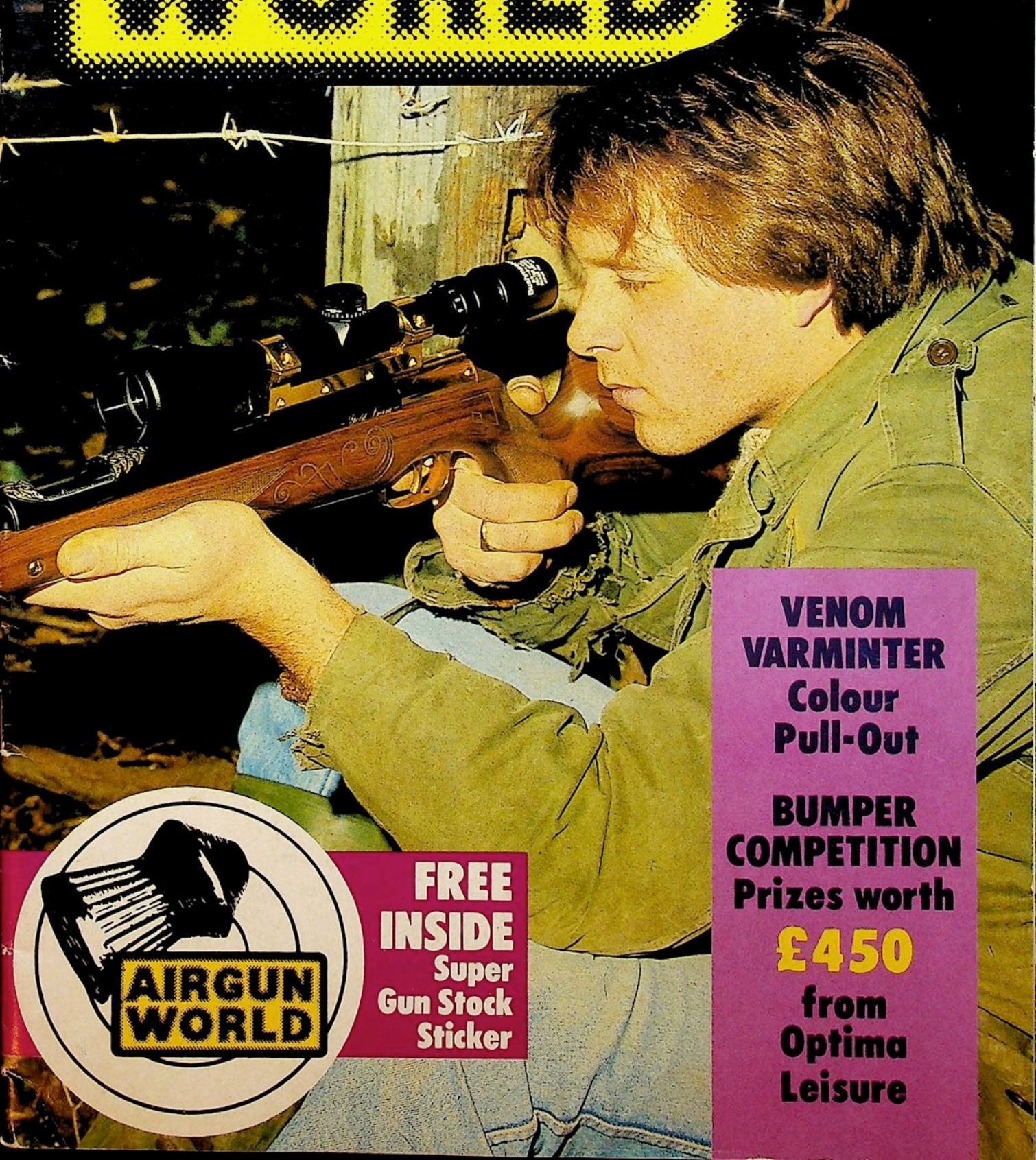


AIRGUN WORLD

May 1986, £1.00

**Britain's
No. 1 Airgun
Magazine**



**VENOM
VARMINTER
Colour
Pull-Out**

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COMPETITION
Prizes worth**

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from
Optima
Leisure**

**FREE
INSIDE
Super
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Sticker**



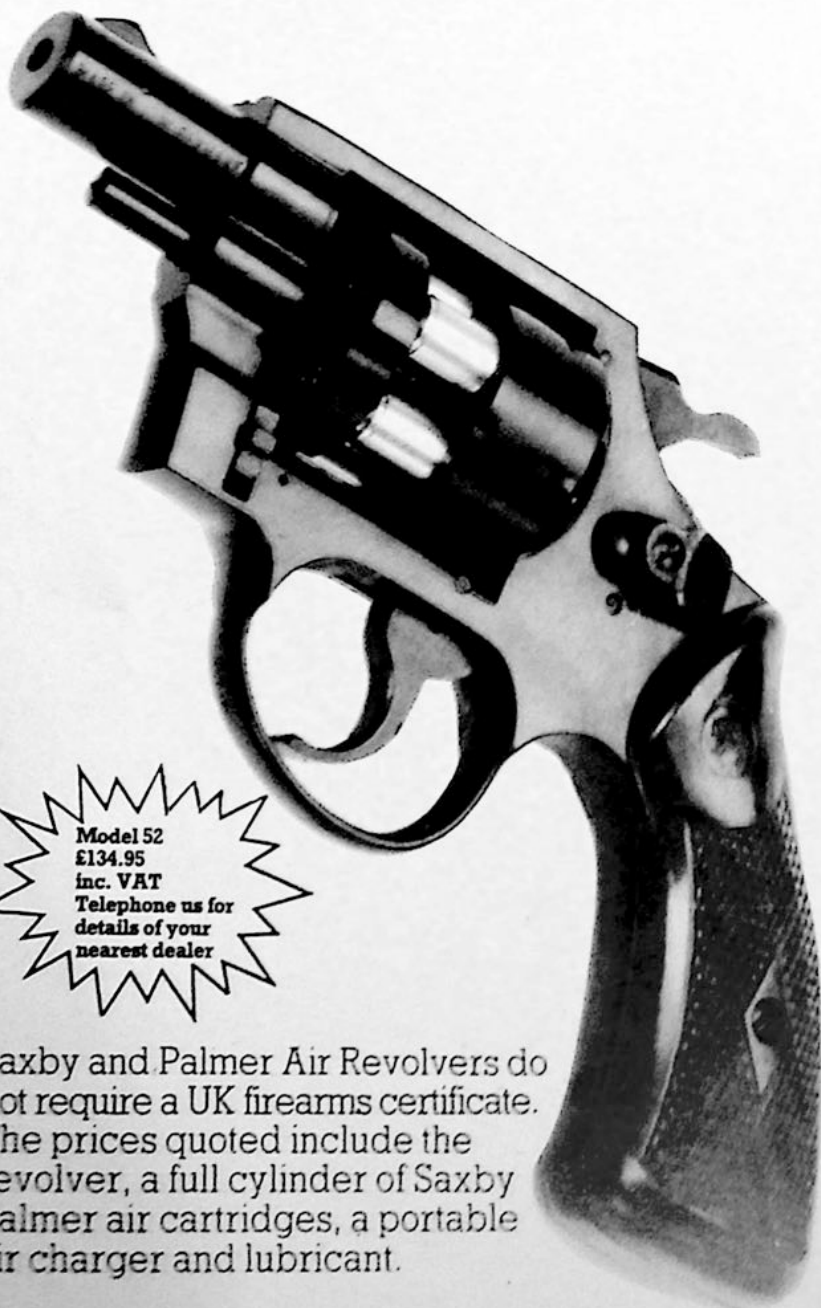
* * A FIST-FULL OF POWER * *

Whether you choose the six-shot Orion or the snub-nosed Model 52, you know you've got a real performer on your hands.

THE ORION features a six inch barrel and target sights together with an excellent trigger. Fed on a diet of Eley Wasps in .177 cal. we've fired test groups of a ¼" centre-to-centre at 10 metres.

And with consistent power output of around 550 fps, the Orion is a classic weapon in a class of its own. It is worthy of a place in the collection of every serious shooter.

Orion Six
£221.37
inc. VAT
Over 2500 Air
Revolvers
already sold



Model 52
£134.95
inc. VAT
Telephone us for
details of your
nearest dealer

Saxby and Palmer Air Revolvers do not require a UK firearms certificate. The prices quoted include the revolver, a full cylinder of Saxby Palmer air cartridges, a portable air charger and lubricant.

THE MODEL 52 AIR REVOLVER measures just 6½" nose to tail — which makes it the most compact air pistol on the market. This 5 shot air revolver is lightweight, well balanced and can be fired either single or double action. The grip is ambidextrous and suited to both male and female models.

Recommended pellet: H&N Match.

Performance figures quoted were verified before production of this advertisement. We can give no guarantee that each revolver sold will perform exactly as described.

**saxby
palmer**
the inventive gunsmiths

Saxby and Palmer Ltd, 3 Swan Industrial Estate, Avenue Farm,
Stratford upon Avon CV37 0HR.
Tel. 0789 298830 Telex 312569 Saxpal G

The Editor says ...



I MAKE NO apology for the fact that this issue of *Airgun World* has a bias towards the best of British! Our centre spread features the Venom Varminter — a rifle which has become a classic already, and which typifies the painstaking drive for perfection of Ivan Hancock and Dave Pope at Venom Arms.

Our *Gun Test* features the Zephyr 77. Like the Varminter, this rifle is based on the German Weihrauch HW77 — but this time it is Ben Taylor and Dave Theobald at Theoben Engineering, in conjunction with John Stevens at the Airgun Centre, who have worked their own brand of magic. The end result is a rifle that had our test writer Wally Pope groping for new superlatives to describe it.

Finally, Jonathan Wilkes has been testing the new Field Target version of the Theoben Sirocco. No easy man to please, Jonathan was amazed by the sheer quality of this exceptional British rifle.

It is a sign of the times that British manufacturers are now fighting back against foreign imports — even if some of the time they have to do it by improving on the quality of the best air weapons from West Germany. From my postbag I can tell that it is Venom, Theoben and the rest of the British airgun industry that is setting the world alight at present. Long may it continue.

Watching the BBC news recently — on March 13th, in fact — I was astonished to see an item on the threat to society posed by the Saxby & Palmer converted Lee Enfield air rifles.

'Lethal weapons that should be banned', was the verdict of local M.P. Bruce George, in an item that showed as much understanding of whatever 'problem' there may be as I have of nuclear physics — and that is very little indeed!

The Saxby & Palmer system was portrayed as a military invention that has been applied to civilian purposes — and it was seriously put forward as a means of 'taking out' terrorists on board aeroplanes without the danger of puncturing the fuselage. The claim was also made that the Saxby & Palmer system, because of the design of the bullets used, delivers 50 per cent more power to the target than other rifle/pellet combinations, even at the 12 ft lbs energy limit.

I find that a little baffling — and I'm sure that most people watching the programme must have wondered what it was all about. Perhaps one day we'll find out.

Just one day later I heard on the news — radio, this time — that the British Veterinary Society had called for tougher restrictions on the sale of crossbows and air weapons. In neither of these news items was it made clear that there are already restrictions on the sale and use of air weapons, and nor was any evidence produced of how further restricting them would benefit man or beast in any way.

I think it time that the mass media heard the other point of view — and I urge all readers of *Airgun World* to write to the BBC, their local television company and local newspapers asking them for a balanced approach to this whole subject.

Do nothing and we could find that matters will soon be taken out of our hands.

John Fletcher

AIRGUN WORLD

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May 1986

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COVER PHOTO: DAVID LINAKER
In action with the Northern Arms Gold Sierra.

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Articles and photographs on any aspects of airgun sport submitted for publication and, if used, will be paid for at our usual publication rate. No responsibility is accepted for loss or damage. A signed copy of the magazine will be sent to the author of any article.

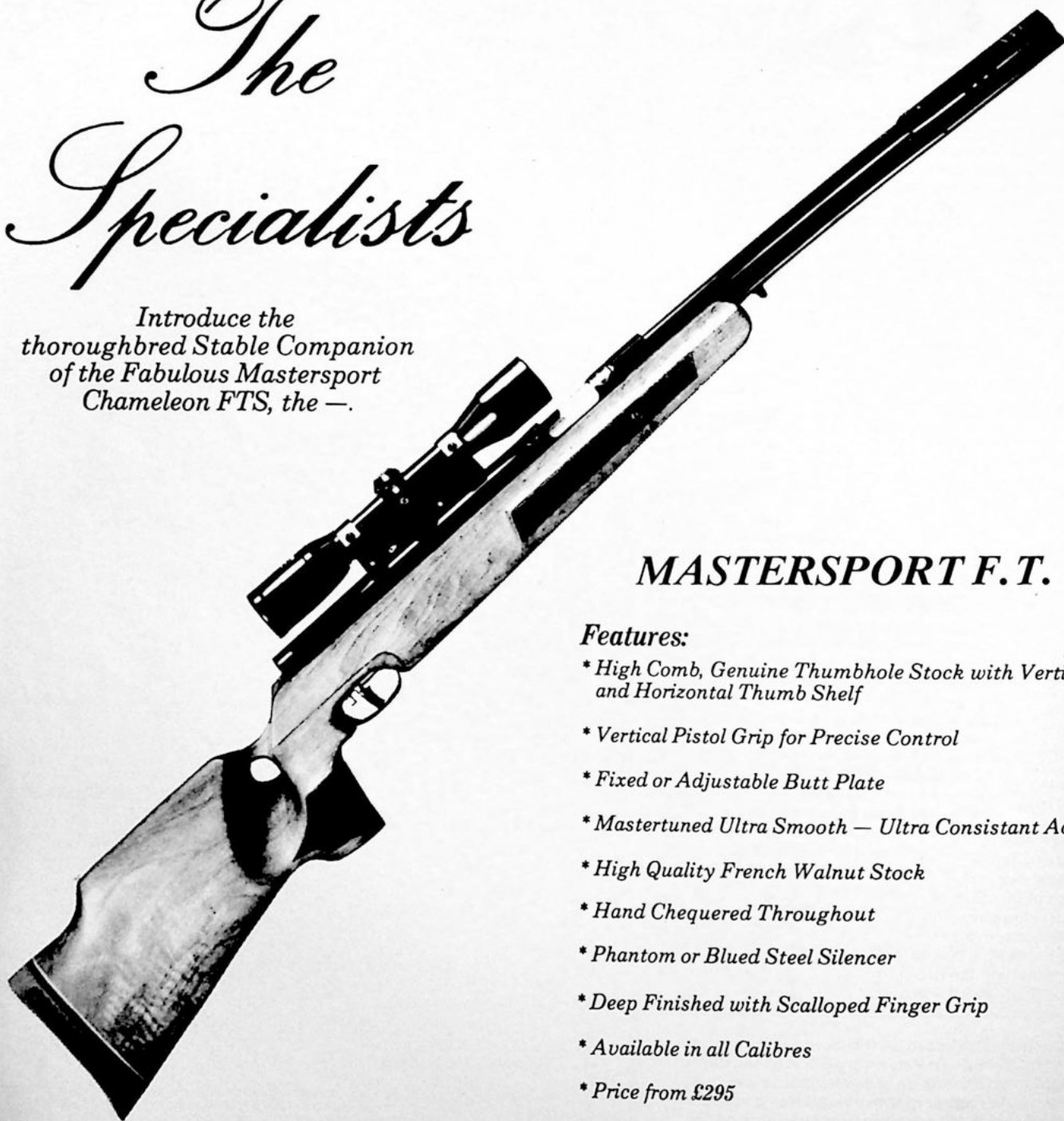
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Weihrauch HW80 Tyrol Custom (80K Carbine version same price)	N/A	£198.00
Weihrauch HW77 (and HW77K Carbine)	N/A	£120.00
Weihrauch HW80 (and HW80K Carbine)	£99.00	£109.00
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Weihrauch HW35 Export	£105.00	£115.00
Weihrauch HW35	£75.00	£85.00
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Feinwerkbau Sport Mk. II	£125.00	£135.00
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Webley Vulcan Mk. II (and Carbine version)	£75.00	£85.00
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WEIHAUCH HW77 (and HW77K CARBINE)	£120.00	£12.00	£2.47	N/A
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WEIHAUCH HW45	£115.00	£12.00	£2.37	N/A
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WEBLEY OMEGA (and Carbine Version)	£125.00	£13.00	£2.55	N/A
WEBLEY VULCAN DE LUXE (and Carbine Version)	£105.00	£11.00	£2.19	N/A
WEBLEY VULCAN MKII	£85.00	£9.00	£1.80	N/A
BSA STUTZEN	£139.00	£14.00	£2.83	£1.63
BSA AIRSPORTER S	£129.00	£13.00	£2.63	N/A
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KASSNAR 3-9x40 WA	£298.00	£30.00	£6.07	£3.47
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WA	£296.65	£30.65	£6.03	£3.44
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KASSNAR 4x32 WA	£277.15	£28.15	£5.64	£3.22
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KASSNAR 3-9x40 WA	£288.75	£29.75	£5.87	£3.39
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WA	£287.40	£29.40	£5.85	£3.37
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KASSNAR 3-9x56 WAPA	£370.55	£37.55	£7.55	£4.30
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WAPA	£334.90	£34.90	£6.80	£3.90
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WAPA	£328.35	£33.35	£6.68	£3.80
KASSNAR 4x40 WAPA	£323.20	£33.20	£6.57	£3.70
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WA	£313.00	£32.00	£6.37	£3.60
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WA	£311.65	£31.65	£6.34	£3.58
KASSNAR 4x40 WA	£299.05	£30.05	£6.09	£3.50
KASSNAR 4x32 WA	£292.15	£30.15	£5.94	£3.40
KASSNAR 4x32	£284.90	£28.90	£5.80	£3.30
KASSNAR VISTASCOPE 4x32	£272.30	£27.30	£5.55	£3.20

RING JOHN STEVENS NOW WITH YOUR QUERIES ON

0268 771 730

THE AirGUN CENTRE

107 London Road
Rayleigh
Essex SS6 9AY

Open 10am-6pm
Closed Wed & Sun

(A129 Wickford to Rayleigh Rd. 1/2 mile before Rayleigh Station)

ZEPHYR 77

THEOBEN

THE ULTIMATE STATE OF THE ART AIR RIFLE IS AVAILABLE NOW

ZEPHYR 77 with Zephyr stock, blued steel silencer and Zephyr action £325.00 or deposit £33.00 and 52 weeks at £6.61 or 104 weeks at £3.81.

ZEPHYR 77 complete with Zeiss Diavari 3-9x36 with Z-plex reticle and Sportsmatch 1-piece mount £741.00 or deposit £75.00 and 52 weeks at £15.09 or 104 weeks at £8.70.

ZEPHYR 77 complete with Kassnar 3-9x56 WAPA and Sportsmatch 1-piece mount £471.00 or deposit £48.00 and 52 weeks at £9.58 or 104 weeks at £5.53.

ZEPHYR 77 complete with Kassnar 3-9x40 WA and Sportsmatch 1-piece mount £414.00 or deposit £42.00 and 52 weeks at £8.43 or 104 weeks at £4.86.

ACCESSORIES, 'SCOPES, SILENCERS, MOUNTS, etc

RHINO/HAKKO SCOPES

Incredible poor light performance with illuminated reticle

4-12x40	£149.00
3-9x40	£119.00
4x40	£99.00

SPORTSMATCH MOUNTS

ONE PIECE

OP10FWB ORIG WEBLEY/ANSCHUTZ	£17.25
OP12BSA	£19.00
OP15 WEIHRACH	£19.00
OP14 SHARP	£19.00

Make sure your spring air weapon is performing at its best. Send it together with £20.00 (plus £2.50 p&p & insurance) for the full Airgun Centre Tune. All our tuning work is guaranteed for life. The Airgun Centre inspection and test certificate is returned with each weapon giving full performance details. All weapons that have been Airgun Centre tuned are entitled to free 6 monthly overhauls for life.

TWO PIECE	
TO1 FWB ORIG WEBLEY/ANSCHUTZ	£6.05
TO3 AS ABOVE, EXTRA TOUGH FITTINGS	£7.75
TO2 WEIHRACH, WITH ARRESTER STUD	£6.20
TO4 AS ABOVE, EXTRA TOUGH FITTINGS	£8.45
AIR LOGIC SILENCERS	
STATE WHICH RIFLE TO FIT	£19.95
ACCESSORIES	
TOP QUALITY LEATHER SLINGS	£8.45
QUICKLY DETACHABLE SLING SWIVELS	£8.95
STANDARD SLING SWIVELS	£5.00
SUPER DELUXE QUALITY GUN CASE	£19.95
AGENTS FOR SKAN CHRONOSCOPES FROM	£95.00

..... CREDIT AVAILABLE

APR 36.3%

WEIHRACH HW77 (77K CARBINE VERSION SAME PRICE)

Fitted with Sportsmatch 1 piece mount with

Cash Price or Deposit & 52 weeks at or 104 weeks at

KASSNAR 3-9x56 WAPA	£266.55	£27.55	£5.42	£3.12
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WAPA	£230.90	£23.90	£4.69	£2.71
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WAPA	£224.35	£23.35	£4.55	£2.63
KASSNAR 4x40 WAPA	£219.20	£22.20	£4.49	£2.59
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WA	£209.00	£21.00	£4.26	£2.46
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WA	£207.65	£21.65	£4.21	£2.43
KASSNAR 4x40 WA	£195.05	£20.05	£3.96	£2.29
KASSNAR 4x32 WA	£188.15	£19.15	£3.83	£2.21
KASSNAR 4x32	£180.90	£18.90	£3.67	£2.12
KASSNAR VISTASCOPE 4x32	£168.30	£17.30	£3.42	£1.97

THEOBEN SIROCCO DE LUXE (Including Silencer)

Fitted with Theoben mounts with

Cash Price or Deposit & 52 weeks at or 104 weeks at

KASSNAR 3-9x56 WAPA	£422.30	£42.30	£8.61	£4.97
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WAPA	£386.65	£39.65	£7.86	£4.54
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WAPA	£380.10	£38.10	£7.75	£4.47
KASSNAR 4x40 WAPA	£374.95	£37.95	£7.64	£4.41
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WA	£364.75	£36.75	£7.43	£4.29
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WA	£363.40	£36.40	£7.41	£4.28
KASSNAR 4x40 WA	£350.80	£35.80	£7.14	£4.12
KASSNAR 4x32 WA	£343.90	£34.90	£7.00	£4.04
KASSNAR 4x32	£336.65	£34.65	£6.84	£3.90
KASSNAR VISTASCOPE 4x32	£324.05	£33.05	£6.59	£3.81

WEIHRACH HW80 (80K CARBINE VERSION SAME PRICE)

Fitted with Sportsmatch 1 piece mount with

Cash Price or Deposit & 52 weeks at or 104 weeks at

KASSNAR 3-9x56 WAPA	£257.30	£26.30	£5.23	£3.02
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WAPA	£221.65	£22.65	£4.49	£2.59
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WAPA	£215.10	£22.10	£4.37	£2.52
KASSNAR 4x40 WAPA	£209.95	£21.95	£4.26	£2.46
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WA	£199.75	£20.75	£4.05	£2.34
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WA	£198.40	£20.40	£4.03	£2.33
KASSNAR 4x40 WA	£185.80	£18.80	£3.78	£2.18
KASSNAR 4x32 WA	£178.90	£17.90	£3.65	£2.10
KASSNAR 4x32	£171.65	£17.65	£3.49	£2.01
KASSNAR VISTASCOPE 4x32	£159.05	£16.05	£3.24	£1.87

THEOBEN SIROCCO STANDARD (Including Silencer)

Fitted with Theoben mounts with

Cash Price or Deposit & 52 weeks at or 104 weeks at

KASSNAR 3-9x56 WAPA	£382.30	£38.30	£7.80	£4.50
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WAPA	£346.65	£35.65	£7.05	£4.07
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WAPA	£340.10	£34.10	£6.93	£4.00
KASSNAR 4x40 WAPA	£334.95	£33.95	£6.82	£3.93
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WA	£324.75	£32.75	£6.62	£3.82
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WA	£323.40	£32.40	£6.59	£3.81
KASSNAR 4x40 WA	£310.80	£31.80	£6.32	£3.64
KASSNAR 4x32 WA	£303.90	£30.90	£6.19	£3.57
KASSNAR 4x32	£296.65	£30.65	£6.03	£3.48
KASSNAR VISTASCOPE 4x32	£284.05	£29.05	£5.78	£3.33

WEBLEY OMEGA (AND OMEGA CARBINE)

Fitted with Sportsmatch 1 piece mount with

Cash Price or Deposit & 52 weeks at or 104 weeks at

KASSNAR 3-9x56 WAPA	£271.55	£27.55	£5.53	£3.19
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WAPA	£235.90	£23.90	£4.80	£2.77
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WAPA	£229.35	£23.35	£4.67	£2.69
KASSNAR 4x40 WAPA	£224.20	£23.20	£4.55	£2.63
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WA	£214.00	£22.00	£4.35	£2.51
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WA	£212.65	£21.65	£4.33	£2.50
KASSNAR 4x40 WA	£200.05	£20.05	£4.08	£2.35
KASSNAR 4x32 WA	£193.15	£20.15	£3.92	£2.26
KASSNAR 4x32	£185.90	£18.90	£3.78	£2.18
KASSNAR VISTASCOPE 4x32	£173.30	£18.30	£3.51	£2.03

B.S.A. STUTZEN

Fitted with Sportsmatch 1 piece mount with

Cash Price or Deposit & 52 weeks at or 104 weeks at

KASSNAR 3-9x56 WAPA	£287.30	£29.30	£5.85	£3.37
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WAPA	£251.65	£25.65	£5.12	£2.95
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WAPA	£245.10	£25.10	£4.98	£2.88
KASSNAR 4x40 WAPA	£239.95	£24.95	£4.87	£2.81
KASSNAR 3-9x40 WA	£229.75	£23.75	£4.67	£2.69
KASSNAR 2-7x32 WA	£228.40	£23.40	£4.65	£2.68
KASSNAR 4x40 WA	£215.80	£21.80	£4.40	£2.54
KASSNAR 4x32 WA	£208.90	£20.90	£4.26	£2.46
KASSNAR 4x32	£201.65	£20.65	£4.10	£2.37
KASSNAR VISTASCOPE 4x32	£189.05	£19.05	£3.85	£2.22

ORDER FORM

Mail Order and Credit Facilities

Access and Barclaycard welcome, telephone your order for immediate despatch. If you order by post use this slip and make cheques or postal orders payable to The Airgun Centre. Cash with order in registered envelope please. Add £2.50 post, packing and insurance for rifles and combinations, £1.50 for 'scopes, pistols etc.

If you require credit, (available only on purchases totalling £85 and over) fill in the form and return it with your deposit for details by return.

I do/do not require credit facilities repaid over
12 ☐ 24 ☐ months. I am over 18 years ☐ yes ☐ no ☐

Please send

Cal: Price £ I enclose the deposit/full cash price of £

+ p&p £ Total amount enclosed £

by cheque/PO/cash/or Access/Barclaycard No.

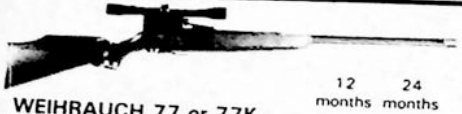
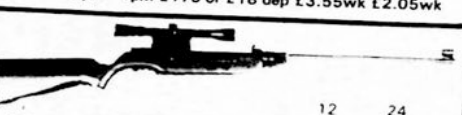
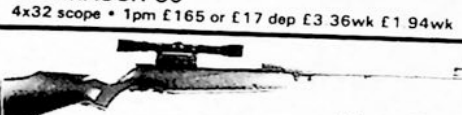
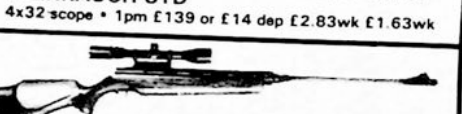
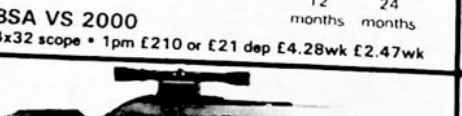
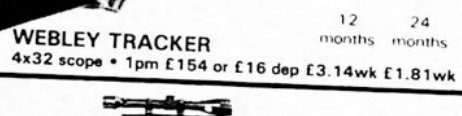
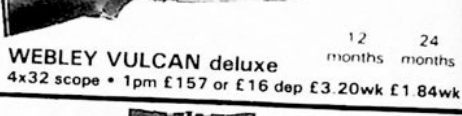
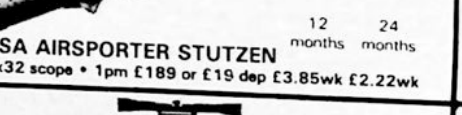
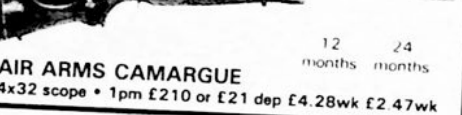
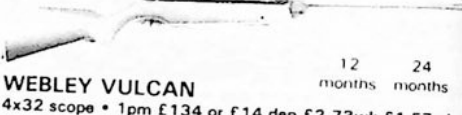
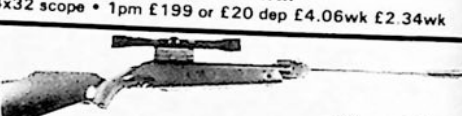
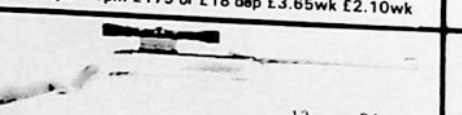
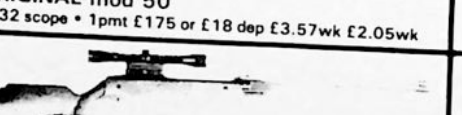
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Address

Tel:

AIR-RIFLE COMBINATIONS

EACH OUTFIT IS FITTED WITH EITHER A TASCO, KASSNAR OR ASI 4x32 SCOPE AND 1-PIECE MOUNT IDEAL FOR HUNTING & FIELD TARGET SHOOTING

 WEIHRACH 77 or 77K 4x32 scope • 1pm £175 or £18 dep £3.55wk £2.05wk 12 months 24 months	 WEIHRACH 80 4x32 scope • 1pm £165 or £17 dep £3.36wk £1.94wk 12 months 24 months	 WEIHRACH EXPORT 4x32 scope • 1pm £175 or £18 dep £3.55wk £2.05wk 12 months 24 months
 WEIHRACH STD 4x32 scope • 1pm £139 or £14 dep £2.83wk £1.63wk 12 months 24 months	 WEBLEY OMEGA or CARBINE 4x32 scope • 1pm £169 or £17 dep £2.44wk £1.98wk 12 months 24 months	 WEBLEY VISCOUNT 4x32 scope • 1pm £149 or £15 dep £3.04wk £1.75wk 12 months 24 months
 BSA VS 2000 4x32 scope • 1pm £210 or £21 dep £4.28wk £2.47wk 12 months 24 months	 WEBLEY TRACKER 4x32 scope • 1pm £154 or £16 dep £3.14wk £1.81wk 12 months 24 months	 WEBLEY VULCAN deluxe 4x32 scope • 1pm £157 or £16 dep £3.20wk £1.84wk 12 months 24 months
 BSA AIRSPORTER STUTZEN 4x32 scope • 1pm £189 or £19 dep £3.85wk £2.22wk 12 months 24 months	 AIR ARMS CAMARGUE 4x32 scope • 1pm £210 or £21 dep £4.28wk £2.47wk 12 months 24 months	 WEBLEY VULCAN 4x32 scope • 1pm £134 or £14 dep £2.73wk £1.57wk 12 months 24 months
 BSA MERCURY CHALLENGER 4x32 scope • 1pm £149 or £15 dep £3.04wk £1.75wk 12 months 24 months	 AIR ARMS MISTRAL AL 4x32 scope • 1pm £175 or £18 dep £3.57wk £2.05wk 12 months 24 months	 FEINWERKBAU SPORT MKII 4x32 scope • 1pm £199 or £20 dep £4.06wk £2.34wk 12 months 24 months
 BSA AIRSPORTER S 4x32 scope • 1pm £179 or £18 dep £3.65wk £2.10wk 12 months 24 months	 ORIGINAL mod 50 4x32 scope • 1pmt £175 or £18 dep £3.57wk £2.05wk 12 months 24 months	 FEINWERKBAU SPORT MKIII 4x32 scope • 1pm £215 or £22 dep £4.38wk £2.52wk 12 months 24 months
 BSA MERCURY S 4x32 scope • 1pm £146 or £15 dep £2.97wk £1.71wk 12 months 24 months	 ORIGINAL mod 45 4x32 scope • 1pm £139 or £14 dep £2.83wk £1.63wk 12 months 24 months	 RWS mod 45 4x32 scope • 1pm £135 or £14 dep £2.75wk £1.58wk 12 months 24 months
 SHARP ACE 4x32 scope • 1pm £189 or £19 dep £3.85wk £2.22wk 12 months 24 months	 SHARP INNOVA 4x32 scope • 1pm £133 or £14 dep £2.71wk £1.56wk 12 months 24 months	 ASI MAGNUM 4x32 scope • 1pm £112 or £12 dep £2.28wk £1.32wk 12 months 24 months

THE ULTIMATE SHOOTING MACHINES from Uttings Gun Co

These outfits are highly recommended by us for either HUNTING or FIELD TARGET. The hunting outfits are fitted with high light intensity scopes and 1-piece mounts. Silencers are optional extras. The field-target outfits are fitted with smaller objective lenses and 1-piece mounts.

• MAXIMUM POWER •

THE ONLY CHOICE
FOR THE
SERIOUS SHOOTER

• MAXIMUM POWER •

WEIHRACH 77 or 77K .177 or .22

fitted with—

H	Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day & Night	1 piece mount	£245 or £25	12 mths	24 mths
U	Tasco AG 4x40 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£210 or £21	£4.99 wk	£2.88 wk
N	Kassnar 3-9x56 PA Night Owl	1 piece mount	£255 or £26	£4.28 wk	£2.47 wk
T	Kassnar 4x40 PA Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£5.20wk	£3.00wk	
I	ASI FM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn	1 piece mount	£215 or £22	£4.38wk	£2.52wk
N	ASI FM 4x40 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£229 or £23	£4.67wk	£2.69wk
G	Venom Silencers for above	1 piece mount	£195 or £20	£3.97wk	£2.29wk

TARGET

H	Tasco AG 2-7x32 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£229 or £23	£4.67wk	£2.69wk
U	Kassnar 2-7x32 PA Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£219 or £22	£4.46wk	£2.57wk
N	ASI FM 4x32 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£185 or £19	£3.77wk	£2.17wk

WEIHRACH 80 .177 or .22

fitted with—

H	Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day & Night	1 piece mount	£235 or £24	12 mths	24 mths
U	Tasco AG 4x40 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£199 or £20	£4.79wk	£2.76wk
N	Kassnar 3-9x56 PA Night Owl	1 piece mount	£245 or £25	£5.00wk	£2.88wk
T	Kassnar 4x40 PA Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£205 or £21	£4.18wk	£2.41wk
I	ASI FM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn	1 piece mount	£219 or £22	£4.46wk	£2.57wk
N	ASI FM 4x40 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£185 or £19	£3.77wk	£2.17wk
G	Venom Silencers for above	1 piece mount	£20 or £2		

TARGET

H	Tasco AG 2-7x32 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£219 or £22	£4.46wk	£2.57wk
U	Kassnar 2-7x32 PA Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£209 or £21	£4.26wk	£2.45wk
N	ASI FM 4x32 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£175 or £18	£3.57wk	£2.05wk

Beautifully Customised Guns from UTTINGS GUN CO.

TYROLEAN STOCK



Telescopic sights & Venom silencers optional extras

These guns feature either 'Sporter' or 'Tyrolean' style French Walnut custom stocks and feature full chequering with oil finish (please state style you require)

Weihrauch 77 Custom

complete with—

Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day & Night	1 piece mount	£335 or £34	£6.83 wk	£3.94 wk
Tasco AG 2-7x32 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£319 or £32	£3.75 wk	£3.75 wk
Tasco AG 4x40 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£299 or £30	£3.51 wk	£3.51 wk
Venom Silencer for above	1 piece mount	£285 or £29	£3.35 wk	£3.35 wk

Weihrauch 80 Custom

complete with—

Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day & Night	1 piece mount	£325 or £33	£6.63 wk	£3.82 wk
Tasco AG 2-7x32 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£309 or £31	£6.30 wk	£3.63 wk
Tasco AG 4x40 Wide Angle	1 piece mount	£289 or £29	£5.89 wk	£3.40 wk
Venom Silencers for above	1 piece mount	£275 or £28	£5.61 wk	£3.23 wk

Deposit 12 mths 24 mths
£210 or £21 £4.28 wk £2.47 wk

1 piece mount £335 or £34 £6.83 wk £3.94 wk
1 piece mount £319 or £32 £3.75 wk £3.75 wk
1 piece mount £299 or £30 £3.51 wk £3.51 wk
1 piece mount £285 or £29 £3.35 wk £3.35 wk
£33 or £4

£199 or £20 £4.06 wk £2.34 wk

REPLICA GUNS

ON EASY CREDIT TERMS over 12 months
All payments shown with the guns are approx. weekly equivalents based on a credit balance of £120 + min charge £12
TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

PPK EL-ALAMEIN



Fires 8mm
£3/10 blanks

£69 or £7 dep £1.40 wk

WEST GERMAN AUTO



Fires 8mm
£3/10 blanks

£40 or £4 dep £0.82 wk

COLT .380 ACP COMBAT



Fires 8mm
£3/10 blanks

£99 or £10 dep £2.02 wk

MAUSER HSC MOD 84



Fires 8mm
£3/10 blanks

£99 or £10 dep £2.02 wk

WALTHER P38



£49 or £5 dep £1.00 wk

LUGER P08



£49 or £5 dep £1.00 wk

PPK CHROME FINISH



Fires 8mm
£3/10 blanks

£79 or £8 dep £1.61 wk

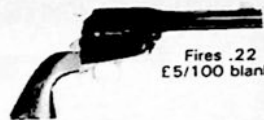
PPK deluxe



Fires 8mm
£3/10 blanks

£89 or £9 dep £1.81 wk

JAGER PEACEMAKER



Fires .22
£5/100 blanks

£175 or £18 dep £3.57 wk

SHOOTERS OPTION

WE GIVE YOU THE CHOICE!!!

Buy any item separately or decide on your own combination. If you wish to buy just an air rifle or telescopic sight we make it easy for you. Any item can be purchased separately or together for a combination of your choosing. Just enclose the necessary deposits.

EASY CREDIT TERMS OVER 12 or 24 MONTHS

AIR-RIFLES:

	Dep	12 mths wk	24 mths wk
WEIHRACH 77	£119 or £12	£2.42	£1.40
Weihrauch 77K	£119 or £12	£2.42	£1.40
Weihrauch Export	£119 or £12	£2.42	£1.40
Weihrauch 80	£110 or £11	£2.24	£1.29
Weihrauch Std	£86 or £9	£1.75	£1.01
FEINWERKBAU MKIII	£165 or £17	£3.36	£1.94
Feinwerkbau MKII	£135 or £14	£2.75	£1.58
THEOBEN Sirrocco deluxe (incl. silencer)	£279 or £28	£5.69	£3.28
Theoben Sirrocco std	£239 or £24	£4.87	£2.81
ASI Magnum	£69 or £7	£1.40	£.81

TASCO SCOPES:

Parallax adjusting, satin finish fog, shock and waterproof.			
Tasco AG 3-9x50 day & night	£119 or £12	£2.42	£1.40
Tasco AG 2-7x32 wide angle	£99 or £10	£2.02	£1.16
Tasco AG 1.75-5x40	£99 or £10	£2.02	£1.16
Tasco AG 4x40 wide angle	£79 or £8	£1.61	£.92
Tasco AG 4x32	£62 or £7	£1.26	£.72
Tasco AG 2.75x40	£78 or £8	£1.59	£.91

VENOM SILENCERS:

Venom Silencer for 77 or 77K	£33 or £4
Venom Silencer for all other models	£20 or £2

WEIHRACH Omega Carbine
Weihrauch Omega
Weihrauch Tracker
Weihrauch Viscount Carbine
Weihrauch as above deluxe
Weihrauch Viscount
Weihrauch Vulcan deluxe
Weihrauch Vulcan
Weihrauch Beeman C1
SHARP Ace
Sharp Innova

ASI SCOPES:

Parallax adjusting, matt finish instant range finder, waterproof			
ASI FM 4-12x56 dusk/dawn	£119 or £12	£2.42	£1.40
ASI FM 3-9x56 dusk/dawn	£99 or £10	£2.02	£1.16
ASI FM 3-9x45	£88 or £9	£1.79	£1.03
ASI FM 3-9x40 wide angle	£79 or £8	£1.61	£.92
ASI FM 3-9x32 wide angle	£77 or £8	£1.57	£.90
ASI FM 4x40 wide angle	£59 or £6	£1.20	£.69
ASI FM 4x32 wide angle	£53 or £6	£1.08	£.62

SPORTSMATCH MOUNTS:

2-Piece Sportsmatch	£8 or £1
1-Piece Sportsmatch	£20 or £2

	Dep	12 mths wk	24 mths wk
BSA VS 2000	£125 or £13	£2.55	£1.47
BSA Airsporter Stutzen	£125 or £13	£2.55	£1.47
BSA Mercury Challenger	£108 or £11	£2.20	£1.27
BSA Airsporter S	£145 or £15	£2.95	£1.70
BSA Airsporter	£175 or £18	£3.57	£2.05
BSA Mercury S	£105 or £11	£2.14	£1.23
ORIGINAL mod 50	£112 or £12	£2.28	£1.31
Original mod 45	£87 or £9	£1.77	£1.02
AIR ARMS Camargue	£79 or £8	£1.61	£.92
Air Arms Mistral AI	£139 or £4	£2.83	£1.63
RWS mod 50 T.O.1	£85 or £9	£1.73	£1.00
RWS mod 45			

BSA VS 2000
BSA Airsporter Stutzen
BSA Mercury Challenger
BSA Airsporter S
BSA Airsporter
BSA Mercury S
ORIGINAL mod 50
Original mod 45
AIR ARMS Camargue
Air Arms Mistral AI
RWS mod 50 T.O.1
RWS mod 45

KASSNAR SCOPES:

Parallax adjusting, matt finish, external rangefinder, waterproof.			
Kassnar 3-9x56PA 'Night Owl'	£129 or £13	£2.63	£1.51
Kassnar 6-18x40PA w/angle	£117 or £12	£2.38	£1.37
Kassnar 3-9x40PA + traj comp	£82 or £9	£1.67	£.98
Kassnar 3-9x40PA w/angle	£93 or £10	£1.89	£1.09
Kassnar 2-7x32PA w/angle	£87 or £9	£1.77	£1.02
Kassnar 4x40PA w/angle	£81 or £9	£1.65	£.95
Kassnar 4x32PA w/angle	£68 or £7	£1.38	£.80

GUN BAGS:

Fleece lined (takes scope)	£16 or £2
Deluxe version of above	£26 or £3

• BUY SEPARATELY OR DECIDE ON A COMBINATION OF YOUR OWN CHOOSING •

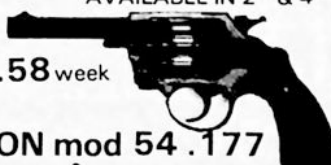
ORION REVOLVERS now with the 'SLIM JIM' portable charger



ORION SIX .177

12 CARTRIDGES • SLIM JIM CHARGER ONLY—
£245 or £25 dep £5.00wk £2.88wk

from £1.58 week



ORION mod 54 .177

5 CARTRIDGES • SLIM JIM CHARGER ONLY—
£135 or £14 dep £2.75wk £1.58wk

GALAXY — The Worlds first Bolt Action — cartridge loading — centre fire rifle

Galaxy with 5 cartridges and Slim Jim portable pump
Fitted with— 4x32 scope & mounts
Saturn as above with black synthetic stock
Fitted with— 4x32 scope & mounts
Accessories: Extra Cartridges Orion £23/6 Saturn-Galaxy £6/5 Galaxy Saturn metal £15/5

	Dep	12mths	24mths
	£147 or £15	£2.99wk	£1.72wk
	£189 or £19	£3.85wk	£2.22wk
	£156 or £16	£3.18wk	£1.83wk
	£199 or £20	£4.06wk	£2.34wk

NORICA outfit

ONLY £59.95 or £6 deposit £1.27 week

CHINA outfit

ONLY £49.95 or £5 deposit £1.10 week
• CREDIT TERMS OVER 12 MONTHS •

3 SUPER OUTFITS

All complete with—
Telescopic Sights • Targets
Pellets • Darts

DAISY PUMP UP

TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

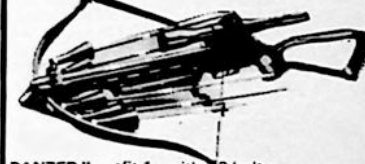
ONLY £69.95 or £7 deposit £1.43 week

BARNETT WILDCAT II 50lb • 75lb • 100lb 125lb • 150lb



Deposit 12 mths 24 mths
WILDCAT II outfit 1: with 12 bolts
£115 or £12 £2.34wk £1.35wk
WILDCAT II outfit 2:
4x32 scope • mts with 12 bolts
£159 or £16 £3.24wk £1.87wk
WILDCAT II outfit 3:
4x32 scope • mts extra bolts £15/5
Opt. pistol grip • sling
fitted quiver • goats foot
cocking lever • 12 bolts foot claw • cam case
£235 or £24 £4.79wk £2.76wk

BARNETT PANZER II 50lb • 75lb • 100lb 125lb • 150lb



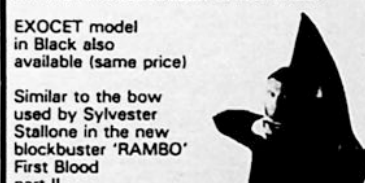
PANZER II outfit 1: with 12 bolts
£115 or £12 £2.34wk £1.35wk
PANZER II outfit 2:
4x32 scope • mts with 12 bolts
£159 or £16 £3.24wk £1.87wk
PANZER II outfit 3:
4x32 scope • mts extra bolts £15/5
Opt. pistol grip • sling
fitted quiver • goats foot
cocking lever • 12 bolts foot claw • cam case
£235 or £24 £4.79wk £2.76wk

BARNETT COMMANDO 100lb • 125lb • 150lb 175lb • 200lb • 220lb



Deposit 12 mths 24 mths
COMMANDO outfit 1:
with 12 bolts
£185 or £19 £3.77wk £2.77wk
COMMANDO outfit 2:
4x32 scope • mts with 12 bolts
£230 or £23 £4.69wk £2.70wk
COMMANDO outfit 3:
4x32 scope • mts extra bolts £15/5
quiver • sling cam case • 12 bolts
£265 or £27 £5.40wk £3.11wk

BARNETT SIDEWINDER CAMO FINISH



EXOCET model in Black also available (same price)
Similar to the bow used by Sylvester Stallone in the new blockbuster 'RAMBO' First Blood part II
SIDEWINDER or EXOCET Fitted Bow Quiver and 10 Arrows ONLY—
Deposit 12 mths 24 mths
£169 or £17 £3.44 wk £1.98 wk

	Dep	12 mths wk	24 mths wk
Weihrauch HW45 pistol	£99 or £10	£2.02	£1.16
'TARGET PISTOLS'			
Feinwerkbau 65 Walnut Grip	£268 or £27	£5.46	£3.15
Feinwerkbau 65 Anatomical	£273 or £28	£2.04	£3.21
Feinwerkbau 80 Anatomical	£283 or £29	£5.77	£3.32
Feinwerkbau 90 Electronic Anatomical	£332 or £34	£6.77	£3.90
Original mod 6G	£103 or £11	£2.10	£1.21
Original mod 6M	£127 or £13	£2.59	£1.49
Original mod 10 Cased	£250 or £25	£5.10	£2.94
FAS Match	£239 or £24	£4.87	£2.81
'TARGET RIFLES'			
Feinwerkbau 600	£435 or £44	£8.87	£5.11
Feinwerkbau 300S Universal	£388 or £39	£7.91	£4.56
Feinwerkbau 300S Match	£315 or £32	£6.42	£3.70
Feinwerkbau 300S Junior	£284 or £29	£5.79	£3.34
Feinwerkbau 300S Running Target	£297 or £30	£6.06	£3.49
Original model 75T	£275 or £28	£5.61	£3.23

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OVER 12 OR 24 MONTHS
FLAT RATE 18% APR 36.3%

Example: (12 months)
Weihrauch 77 outfit £175
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Weekly equivalent £3.55 TCP
£202.92
Min credit charge £12.

Please send me the following goods:
Goods etc:

.....	£.....	Deposit £.....
.....	£.....	Deposit £.....
.....	£.....	Deposit £.....
.....	£.....	Deposit £.....
.....	£.....	Deposit £.....
.....	£.....	Deposit £.....
.....	£.....	Deposit £.....
.....	£.....	Deposit £.....
.....	£.....	Deposit £.....
.....	£.....	Deposit £.....
Total	£.....	Total £.....

I enclose the deposit/full cash price of £..... + £3 p/p

by cheque/cash/PO/Credit Card No

I wish to take advantage of your credit terms over 12 months ☐ 24 months ☐ please

NAME..... AGE..... (Min 18 to

ADDRESS.....

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SPORT AND TARGET FIREPOWER

WEIHRACH (Special specification)



HW35 Std. .177 or .22 + Handbook	£71.45
HW80 .177 or .22 R/H + Handbook	£97.50
HW80 .177 or .22 L/H + Handbook	£115.00
HW35 Export .177 or .22 R/H + Handbook + free issue	£104.00
HW35 Export .177 or .22 L/H + Handbook + free issue	£119.00
HW77 underlever .177 or .22	£104.00
HW77K carbine version .177 or .22	£104.00
HW45 Airpistol .177 or .22	£95.00

FREE OFFER

With any Weihrauch Sporting Rifle, you will receive a FREE Handbook, (except model HW77), 200 H&N and a sling — WORTH OVER £10.

B.S.A.



Meteor	£41.00
Super Met	£49.00
Mercury	£66.00
Airsporter	£89.00
Airsporter S	£115.00
Challenger	£82.00
Stutzen	£115.00
VS 2000	£45.00

SHARP PNEUMATICS



Sharp Ace	£110.00
Sharp Innova	£69.95

All guns are guaranteed brand new and fully complete with all standard equipment, and factory fresh in manufacturers' boxes.

QUALITY SLINGS

Plaited leather gun sling with adjustable buckles	£5.50
Leather-grain PVC gun sling with adjustable buckles	£2.50

FEINWERKBAU Sport Mk II



(Guaranteed to full specification. Backed by spares and expert service)	
FWB 124 Sport De Luxe .177 R/H (metal triggers, etc) + Handbook	£115.00
FWB 127 Sport De Luxe .22 R/H (metal triggers, etc) + Handbook	£115.00
FWB 124 or 127 Sport De Luxe L/H	£125.00
FWB TARGET	
FWB 300 S match rifle R/H walnut stock	£275.00
FWB 300 SU match rifle R/H walnut stock	£325.00
FWB 65 pistol R/H walnut grip	£230.00
FWB 65 pistol R/H anatomical grip	£237.00
FWB 80 pistol R/H anatomical grip	£260.00
FWB 90 electronic pistol	£290.00
FWB 600	£375.00
FWB 300 S running target. 2 only (new)	£235.00
FWB 300 S running target. 1 only, S/H (mint)	£180.00

CASH/CHEQUES ONLY.

WEBLEY



Webley Vulcan De Luxe plus leather sling	£95.00
Webley Tracker plus leather sling	£95.00
Webley Omega plus leather sling	£115.00
Webley Omega carbine plus leather sling	£115.00
Webley Vulcan Tracker	£95.00

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GALAXY AIR RIFLE including pump and 10 metal cartridges
Plus FREE Cartridge Belt
Extra cartridges per 10



ORION Six Shot recoilless air revolver including pump and 6 cartridges	P.O.A.
Extra cartridges per 6	P.O.A.
Lee Enfield Mk IV air rifle including pump and 5 cartridges	P.O.A.
Model 54 — 5 shot recoilless air revolver inc. Slim Jim pump and 5 cartridges	P.O.A.
Model 52 5 shot	P.O.A.
Bolt action Lee Enfield No. 4	£140.00
Slim Jim pump	£35.00
10 cartridges	£25.00

WHISPER (two-piece SILENCERS to fit)

HW35, HW77 & HW80	£19.95
Sharp Ace	£19.95
Sharp Innova	£28.95
Webley (state model)	£19.95
BSA (state model)	£19.95

All the following air rifles come complete with Optima non creep mounts, GC5 gun cover — plaited leather sling.
Please add £10 if Sportsmatch 1 Piece Mount preferred.

ROUND-THCLOCK COMBINATIONS — BIG SAVINGS	OPTIMA 4x32W	OPTIMA 4x40W	OPTIMA 3.9x40W	OPTIMA MOONLIGHTER 3.9x45	OPTIMA SUPER MOONLIGHTER 3.9x56
WEIHRACH HW35 STD .22 or .177	£143.00	£148.00	£156.00	£173.00	£186.00
WEIHRACH HW35 Export .22 or .177	£169.00	£173.00	£184.00	£199.00	£219.00
WEIHRACH HW80 .22 or .177	£169.00	£174.00	£183.00	£201.00	£218.00
WEIHRACH HW77 Underlever or 77K .22 or .177	£180.00	£184.00	£194.00	£211.00	£227.00
FEINWERKBAU FWB 124/127	£175.00	£180.00	£191.00	£208.00	£221.00
SHARP ACE. Pneumatic	£175.00	£179.00	£190.00	£208.00	£225.00
SHARP. Innova. Pneumatic	£135.00	£139.00	£149.00	£162.00	£179.00
WEBLEY Vulcan Deluxe	£160.00	£165.00	£176.00	£192.00	£206.00
WEBLEY Tracker	£160.00	£165.00	£176.00	£192.00	£206.00
WEBLEY Omega	£179.00	£184.00	£195.00	£210.00	£225.00
GALAXY inc. pump, 10 Metal Cartridges	£230.00	£235.00	£247.00	£262.00	£277.00
B.S.A. Meteor	£110.00	£114.00	£124.00	£139.00	£155.00
B.S.A. Super Meteor	£118.00	£122.00	£132.00	£147.00	£163.00
B.S.A. Mercury	£140.00	£144.00	£154.00	£170.00	£185.00
B.S.A. Airsporter (for Airsporter S add £25.00)	£168.00	£172.00	£182.00	£198.00	£214.00
B.S.A. Challenger	£170.00	£175.00	£186.00	£204.00	£218.00
B.S.A. Stutzen	£208.00	£213.00	£225.00	£243.00	£256.00
B.S.A. VS 2000	£229.00	£234.00	£246.00	£264.00	£278.00

For immediate despatch send Cheque/PO's with order. State over 17.



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OPTIMA TELESCOPIC SIGHTS

When we first decided to offer telescopic sights to our customers we were determined to provide the highest quality possible... at a reasonable price. We tested them all. Then we decided to specify our own to achieve all the qualities we ourselves knew that British shooters were looking for in their perfect sight. Consequently, we went to one of Japan's top optical manufacturers and the results are that Optima and only Optima can now offer this superb range at amazing value-for-money prices. Don't be misled. Despite the low prices Optima sights with their precision optics and sturdy construction are as good as any other make on the market. We guarantee it with a money back pledge!

Parallax-adjusted for either Firearms (50 yards-infinity) or Air Rifles (0-60 yards) State which with order.
All models have multi-component lenses made of the Finest Quality Optic Glass—All Components Fully Coated.
Note: Prices shown are for scope only and do not include mounts.

GENUINE FULL WATERPROOF SPECIFICATION

Fitted with **RangeMaster™**

**The instant UP-DOWN Zero Shift!
You aim dead-on-centre for every shot**

Now fitted to the following Optima Telescopic Sights. Models 432W 440W-Z40W, Z45 and Z56. With this feature, adjustment of your scope from zero for varying distance or ammunition is quick, simple and sure. Having to aim high or low is a thing of the past—now you aim dead-on for every shot. How does it work? Following the comprehensive instructions given with your OPTIMA scope—1. You zero at your favoured distance using your usual ammunition; 2. You set your RangeMaster to '0' on the dial; 3. You test fire and calibrate for varying distances and note fine adjustment for different ammunition. Then in the field—1. You judge the distance of your target; 2. You 'Dial' the distance on your RangeMaster, click adjusting if you change ammunition; 3. You aim dead-on—and fire! It's simple, quick and fantastic. It revolutionises shooting with a scope.



THIS IS THE FABULOUS Moonlighter™ the ideal scope for night-and-day

If you enjoy shooting at dusk, by moonlight or just before the sun comes up when you have to make the most of what light there is, this is the scope for you. The massive 45mm objective lens gathers and captures the light. It is 26.5% bigger than the 40mm objective lens. The special multi-coating of the lens minimises light reflection and maximises light passing through, funneling it into a standard field of view allowing the use of normal magnifications without excessive degrading of the image. Special satin-black anodised finish to eliminate give-away reflection. Equally suitable for day use, but full benefits are obviously only evident in poor light conditions.

AND THE NOW EQUALLY RENOWNED SUPER Moonlighter™

As close as you can to a night-sight without a light intensification or infra-red device. If there is any light around, the massive 56mm lens will capture it (it's over three times the area of a 32mm lens!) The superb optics with special lens multi-coating will concentrate it and funnel it into your vision, and there's enough light captured to spread up to the full x9 magnification and still give you a pupil-full of image on maximum dilation on a moonlit night. Nobody other than Optima can bring you anything else approaching this combination of lens size and quality of optical resolution at anything approaching the price.

OPTIMA NON-CREEP MOUNTS

STANDARD

(for use with scopes up to x40mm objective lens).
Supplied in three sizes
Mod 9—Fits 9mm + gun rails £7.75 pr.
Mod 11—Fits 11mm + gun rails £7.75 pr.
For Weihrauch Rifles there is a special model.
Mod 9R—Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 9mm gun rails £8.95

EXTRA HIGH ELEVATION

(See through type).
For scopes over x45mm objective lens e.g.
Super Moonlighter
Mod 9XH—Fits 9mm + gun rails £8.75 pr.
Mod 11XH—Fits 11mm + gun rails £8.75 pr.
For Weihrauch Rifles there is a special model.
Mod 9XR—Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 9mm gun rails £10.50 pr.

CUSTOM STOCKS IN FRENCH WALNUT

Now available from Optima are the following rifles fitted with custom made stocks. Made from specially imported French Walnut of guaranteed quality these stocks offer advanced designed features usually found on top quality hunting rifles.

Available with the choice of two of these superb stocks:
Sporter type. Tyrolean type cheek piece.

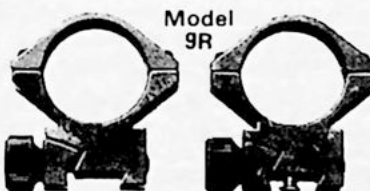
		Tuned Version
HW80 Custom	£173.00	£203.00
HW77 Custom	£180.00	£207.00
HW77 Carbine Custom	£180.00	£207.00
FWB 124/127 Custom	£185.00	£212.00

All these rifles may be purchased in any of our special combinations. Please write or ring for details.

For immediate despatch send cheque/POs with order. State over 17.

HIGH ELEVATION

For scopes over x40mm objective lens e.g. Moonlighter
Mod 9H—Fits 9mm + gun rails £8.50 pr.
Mod 11H—Fits 11mm + gun rails £8.50 pr.
For Weihrauch Rifles there is a special model.
Mod 9HR—Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 9mm gun rails £9.75



SPORTSMATCH 1 PIECE MOUNTS

9-11mm GUN RAILS
7416 — LOW £18.00
7420 — HIGH £19.50

CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE ON ORDERS £100—£300

Flat 15% + Full Cash Price payable over 10 months (Lic No 156663 36.8% APR)
e.g. Combo Cash Price £200.00
Initial Payment with order £ 30.00
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TOTAL CREDIT PRICE £230.00

Just send 15% with your order. (Goods despatched by return subject to status—or else deposit refunded)

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Specifications include: clarity right up to the edge. Permanently centred sight element irrespective of adjustment. Non-misting hydrogen-filled tube with tough black scratch and shock resistant finish. Unique rubber-tipped eyecup fitted to wide angle models. Complete with 8-page instruction booklet and protective lens covers.



Model 432W 4 x 32 Panoramic with No. 15 Dual-X reticle £39.00



Model 440W 4 x 40 Panoramic with No. 15 Dual-X reticle £44.00



Model Z40W 3.9 x 40 Panoramic Zoom with No. 15 Dual-X reticle (Fully variable between 3 and 9 magnification) £58.00



Model Z45 3.9 x 45 Standard Zoom with No. 15 Dual-X reticle (Fully variable between 3 and 9 magnification) with parallax adjustment £76.00



Model Z56 3.9 x 56 Standard with No. 15 Dual-X reticle (Fully variable between 3 and 9 magnification) with parallax adjustment £94.00

PROTECT YOUR RIFLE WITH AN OPTIMA GUN COVER



OPTIMA GC3 £14.95

Matching Sling £2.50
Strong PVC brown leather finish.
Luxurious nylon fleece lined. Full length zip.
Will take rifle fitted with any scope or any shotgun with storage room for cartridges, cleaning kit etc. Elegant protection for your treasured gun.
O/A length 51" (130cm). Width 9" (23cm).

OPTIMA GC5 £22.95

(New—GC5X with extra deep cut for scopes over 45mm £25.75)
Matching Sling £2.50
This new Optima Rifle Cover is made of strong PVC with brown leather graining.
Fitted with heavy duty zip giving full-length, speedy access.

OPTIMA LAMPING KIT

A new 55w Halogen Searchlight lamping kit with special high-power non-spill battery. scope mounted or hand held comes complete with red screen, adaptor for use with standard battery charger, mounts and battery carrying case with shoulder strap. Special Optima price £49.50

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SENDS A.E. FOR FREE BROCHURE**

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FROM GUNSPORT

19. HW-77 'Varminter' rifle de-luxe with Varminter 3-9 x 56 FM P/A scope & MTS. £295 or £30 deposit and £6 per week.

20. HW-77 'Varminter' — carbine de-luxe with mounts Varminter day & night 3-9 x 56 FM P/A with silencer. £320 or £30 deposit and £6.57 per week.

22. HW-80 'Varminter' — carbine de-luxe with Varminter day & night 3-9 x 56 FM P/A scope & MTS with silencer. £299 or £30 deposit and £6.09 per week.

These 'Varminter' combinations are furnished with selected French walnut stocks, hand polished & checkered (right hand only).

'VARMINTER' RIFLES ONLY

'ULTIMATE-POWER'
'SUPERB-HANDLING'
'FANTASTIC-ACCURACY'

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| 19A HW-77 'Varminter' — rifle de-luxe | £199 or £20 deposit and £4.02 per week |
| 20A HW-77 'Varminter' — carbine de-luxe | £199 or £20 deposit and £4.02 per week |
| 21A HW-80 'Varminter' — rifle de-luxe | £188 or £19 deposit and £3.80 per week |
| 22A HW-80 'Varminter' — carbine de-luxe | £199 or £20 deposit and £4.02 per week |
- Varminter rifles are fitted with a Tyrolean or sporter stock.

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SILENCERS IN
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- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| One-piece alloy | £13.95 |
| Two-piece | £18.75 |
| Sharpe Innova | £28 |
- To fit any rifle (state model)

DE-LUXE GUNBAG FLEECE
LINED ¾ ZIP. BLACK NYLON
WITH LARGE ACCESSORY
POCKET. £15.95. (This has to
be the best gunbag available.
Will fit any scoped rifle.)

'Varminter' de-luxe stocks,
HW-77 or 80 £79.95 finished, fits
straight on.
Few only FWB sport stocks. Tyrolean
£79.95.
Standard HW-77 & 80, new factory
stocks. £15 each.

If you can afford the best why settle for less.

ALL 'VARMINTER' RIFLES FROM GUNSPORT GUARANTEED FOR FIVE YEARS

'The ultimate shooting machine'.

MAXIMISER GUN LUBE KIT. Pack contains Abbey
LT2/SM50/Moly GN Paste/Silicone Gun Oil 35/Dri-
Slide and correct instructions for air rifle lubrication.
Packaged exclusively for Gunsport. Price £4.85.

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Swivel Set
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GUNSPORT .177 ☐ or .22 ☐

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Address

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Age: (Min age 18 for terms) Finance required: Yes/No

Indicate period: 12 ☐ 18 ☐ 24 ☐ months paid monthly.

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Please add
£3 p&p Guns
£1 p&p Accessories

AGW5

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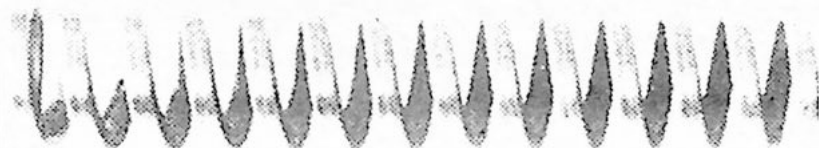
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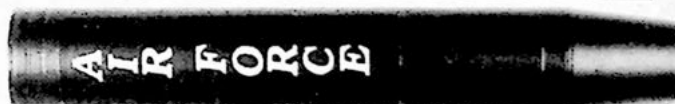
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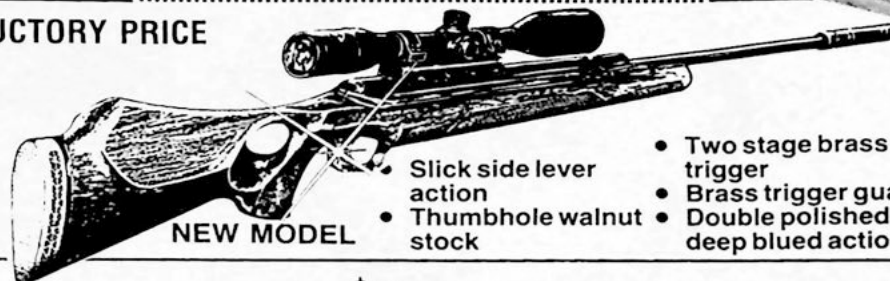
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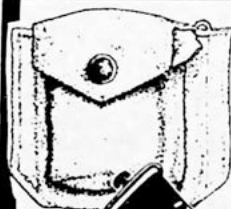


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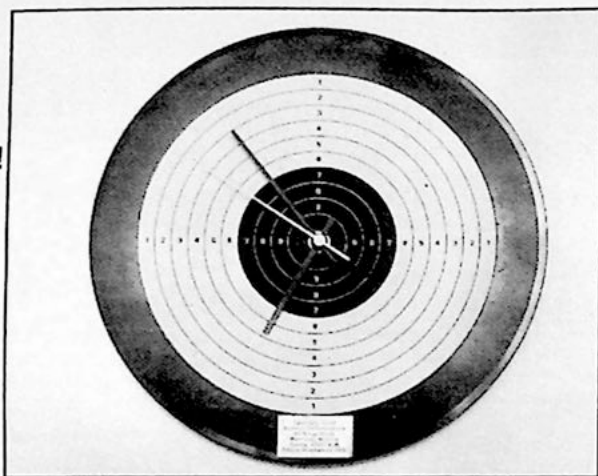
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AIRGUN SCENE

Time For A Target!

The new target clocks make great presents.



If you're airgun crazy, like most of our readers, then you'll find you'll have time on your side with the new target clocks from Kentonville Enterprises. The target clocks are based on an old 78 rpm record, with a 20 yard target card as the clock face. We've had one ticking away in our office for some time now, and apart from being accurate, it has proved to be a great conversation piece.

At only £8.50 plus £2 p&p, the target clocks make great presents — or unusual shoot prizes. Further details from Kentonville Enterprises, 44 Kings Road, West End, Woking, Surrey GU24 9LW.

Gold Sierra Winner

Custom rifles are all the rage judging by the response we received to our March Gold Sierra competition. The lucky winner of this superb gold plated rifle, worth over £425, is Mr M. Swan from Lewes, Sussex.

Air Cane Winner

Our air cane offer brought thousands of replies, but not one correct answer! Many readers almost got the order of importance right, but in the end a draw was necessary to find a winner. Our congratulations go to S. Sadler from Chichester, West Sussex who will receive one of these superb air canes. The correct order was; 6, 5, 2, 1, 7, 4 and 3.

Zephyr Conversions

Last month *Airgun World* brought you the exclusive news about a unique rifle just launched by the Airgun Centre — the Zephyr 77. In this issue, you can read how this 'space age' rifle fared in the hands of our gun testers, and we think that some of their comments will have you reaching for your cheque books!

But not everyone can afford to own one of these star rifles, which is why John Stevens of the Airgun Centre has just announced details of a conversion service where HW77 owners can have their rifle converted to the full Zephyr 77 specification. The price of this conversion is £75, providing the existing piston is in reasonable condition. If not, the price will be £85 which will include the cost of a new piston.

Packington visitors will have the first chance to see the Zephyr 77 on the Theoben stand, but if you can't wait until then, call in at the Airgun Centre where John will also be too pleased to demonstrate this 'non stick' winner.

Decoy Latest

East Anglian Shooting Products have just developed a new percher for placing dead birds in trees. The new percher can be lofted into a suitable tree and has a small hole at the bottom of the main frame to take a length of string so that the percher can be anchored in strong winds. The new percher can also be used as a stand for placing dead birds in high crops. Further details from your local East Anglian Shooting Products stockist.

Charity Shoot Date

Last year Stockport & District AGC organised the field target shooting at the Multiple Sclerosis Country Fair which was a fantastic success. This year Stockport are repeating the exercise on May 3rd at Middle Farm, Bredbury, Stockport.

Apart from the field target shoot, with a great array of prizes up for grabs, there will be various side shoots and a host of other events associated with country fairs. The field target shoot starts at 11 a.m. and admission is free. Last year the club managed to raise over £1,000 and, with your support, they hope to do even better this time around.

Superdomes Are Here



New round-nosed pellets from RWS.

RWS have always been among the top pellets for both the hunter and the field target shooter. Now RWS have added another new pellet to their extensive range — the Superdome.

The Superdome has been designed by RWS especially for air rifle competition use, and initial sales are reported to be over two million! Packed in tins of 500, these new, round-nose pellets are extremely well made and the samples we've tried have been faultless when fired through a variety of guns.

Gas For Grabs

Airgun World reader I. Read has an offer that any airgun collector with an FAC won't want to miss. Some years ago Mr Read purchased several CO₂ powered pistols, but now wants to dispose of them to an enthusiast or collector. The pistols are a Crosman 38T, a Smith & Wesson 79G and a Crosman Pellgun. Mr Read is willing to donate them to any reader possessing a valid FAC, so if you're interested write to *Airgun World* Pistol Offer, enclosing a copy of your FAC, to reach us no later than Friday May 16th. The first name drawn from a hat will receive the pistols.

Airgun World At The Game Fair

First there was Packington Park, the only country show where airgunners had a chance to see all the best airgun equipment available today. Packington was an overnight success, and one we are repeating this year. But now we've gone one better!

For the first time *Airgun World* is proud to announce a very special three-day airgun fair alongside a bumper field target shoot at this year's Game Fair. In conjunction with the Country Landowners Association, we are staging the biggest airgun show ever seen in this country at the Game Fair at Harewood House, near Leeds on July 31st-August 2nd.

Last year airgunners had a rough deal, as the field target shoot promised for the Game Fair was cancelled at the last minute, leaving hundreds of disgruntled shooters, many of whom had travelled a long way to attend. We know how you felt — especially the many disappointed shooters who registered their complaints at our stand.

Our main objective at *Airgun World* is to look after our readers and keep them informed about all the latest products and developments in the airgun scene. In fact, we pride ourselves on printing fact, not fiction — which is why we decided to do something ourselves about last year's mix-up.

This year we guarantee you won't be disappointed. Without going into too much detail, all we'll say is that for three days you will be spoilt for choice, with an array of shooting events that will make you want to come back for more, supplemented by a host of trade stands — featuring all the top airgun names. You'll probably go home with empty pockets, too!

You name it, we've got it, is the simple message we extend to all our readers. There are also a few surprises we plan to spring during the Fair — and we'll bring you more details on these shortly.

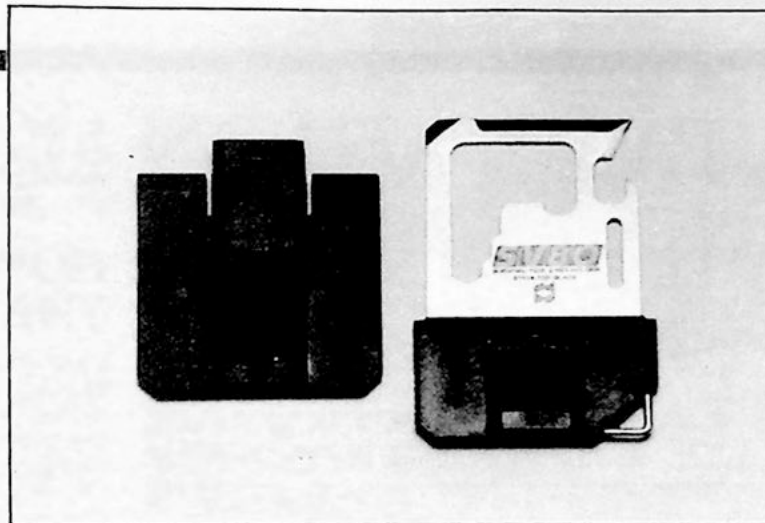
The Game Fair is the biggest country show of its kind, and it's a great opportunity to promote the sport of air rifle shooting to the general public, as well as being a great day out for all the family. As we said, we try to look after our readers — and if you miss this most prestigious occasion, you'll have only yourself to blame.

East Anglian Shooting Products' new percher.

Mini Survival Tool

The engagingly named Blotto Ltd are distributors for a new mini survival tool/keyring, that should have a retail price of around £5.95. The mini tool, measuring roughly 3 ins x 2 ins, is well made and includes a knife, screwdriver, spanners, tin opener, bottle opener and wing nut tool.

With its smart black case, it should be a must for every would-be survivor! Trade enquiries to Tony Earle, Blotto Ltd, 28 Wellington Road, London NW8 9SP. Tel: 01-722 5478.



Blotto Ltd's mini survival tool/key ring.

Trapshot Offer

With the field target season now in full swing, why not take advantage of this month's great, free-to-enter competition where you could win one of five superb Trapshot targets from SMS. The new targets now feature a number of important improvements suggested by *Airgun World's* Jonathan Wilkes. The lamp has been modified to a brighter flash and the circuit is now enclosed in the lamp body. Other important improvements include the addition of four steel rods, which allow the Trapshot to double as a card holder/pellet catcher, and a steel cover plate at a small additional cost.

Most of these changes have been carried out without affecting the price of the target, which is £23.50 for the kit form or £27.50 fully assembled.

But if you're lucky enough, you won't have to spend a penny — because all you have to do to win one of these great indoor/outdoor mobile shooting ranges is to study the ten important features of a Trapshot target listed below, select five and place them in order of importance for a home practice target.

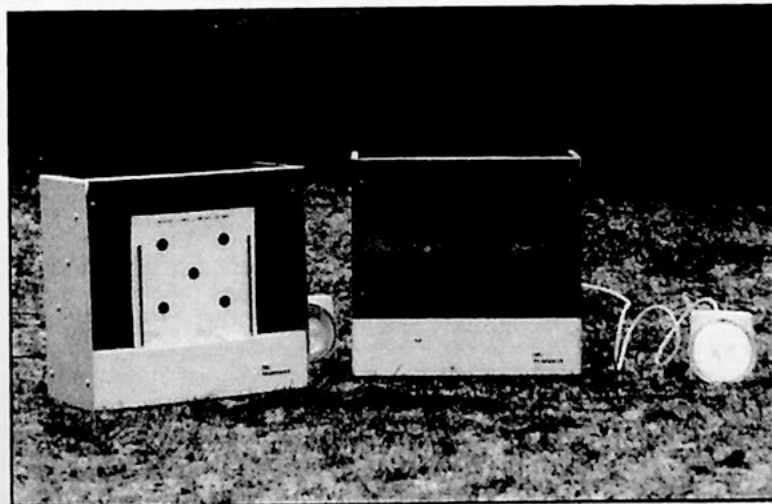
Once you have made your selection, write your answers

clearly on a piece of paper, with your name and address, and send it to **Trapshot Offer, Airgun World, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BG**. Answers should reach us no later than Friday May 16th and the winners' names will appear in our July issue.

List in order of importance, five of the ten features which you think a good home practice target should comprise.

- Zinc plated surfaces to inhibit corrosion.
- A two inch main target for field or speed shooting practice.
- Two smaller targets for improving accuracy when long ranges are unavailable.
- Large capacity, integral pellet trap.
- Automatic re-set allowing you to concentrate on accuracy.
- Doubles as a pellet trap/target holder for a variety of paper targets.
- Fully portable and can be set up and dismantled in seconds.
- Clear, bright signalling of hits fully illuminated for 1-3 seconds.
- Uses 2 cycle lamps for long life.
- Requires no anchorage.

You could win one of these Trapshot targets — absolutely free.



Airforce Screw-Up!

Due to a misunderstanding last month's Air Force advertisement gave the impression that the company's new silencer screws on to the end of your rifle's barrel. This is not the case, of course, and the silencer is actually attached by a grub screw.

Khamsin Superstar

The Air Arms Khamsin.



THIS IS THE second month of our *Airgun World Grand Draw* where you could win one of the new Air Arms Khamsin rifles absolutely free. As you can see, we've printed another one of our coded stars for you to cut out and stick on the entry form printed in the April issue.

We think you'll agree that our Grand Draw is a great chance for regular readers to own one of these top British rifles, so don't forget to collect the remaining four stars which will appear in *Airgun Scene* — and you could be the proud owner of a rifle and scope package worth over £320!

Packington visitors will have the chance to see the complete range of Air Arms rifles on the Air Arms stand, including the Khamsin, which is already proving to be a winner in the field and on the range. Sidelever rifles have had their ups and downs in the past and have tended to suffer from noisy ratchets and poor balance. Combining the resources of a large engineering company with extensive research and development in the field, Air

Barbour News

Top outdoor clothing company Barbour have just released their latest catalogue. The 52 pages are packed full of clothing ideas, including several new additions to Barbour's range. The catalogue is available by writing to J. Barbour & Sons Ltd, Simonside, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE34 9PD.

NSRA Date

The NSRA is staging a 6 yard summer competition shot in two stages. The first stage will be shot during May and the second in June. Each stage will consist of 40 shots, five each at eight air 7 cards. Entry forms and further details may be obtained by enclosing a SAE to, J. Hesketh, Deputy Secretary, NSRA, Lord Roberts House, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NP.

Arms have come up with a range of sidelever cocking rifles that are second to none.

This is reflected in the Khamsin. The rifle's point of balance makes it feel so light as much of the weight placed towards the shoulder which ensures it is steady on aim. Ratchet noise is non-existent using Air Arms' specially developed lever system, which should satisfy the most ardent sidelever critics.

A great deal of thought has gone into the Khamsin, a rifle which Air Arms claim 'should appeal to all shooters'. We'll second that, and if you believe in stars, so could you.

**Airgun
World
Grand Draw
May**

PACKINGTON PREVIEW

April 19th is the date to remember for this year's Airgun Fair.



Philip Upton sets the scene for this year's Airgun Fair



WITH 19 of the top names in the airgun trade showing their wares, this year's Airgun Fair at Packington Park on April 19th promises to be an even greater success than last year's trail-blazing event. Elsewhere on this page you can read a full description of the exhibitors — but there will be much more to keep you interested at Packington, too.

Field Target Shooting

At Packington last year weeks of rain beforehand ensured that the venue was completely waterlogged — and there were some very muddy shooters at the end of the day. There were also plenty of queues for the *Airgun World* sponsored event — but we hope that improved organisation, and better weather, will eliminate those this year.

There will be a full range of field target events, and we at *Airgun World* will ensure that there's a good range of trophies and prizes in every event. John Breeds and Martin Page for the BASC have joined forces with the Stourvale Woodsmen to run the shoot — which should guarantee an event to remember.

Bring and Buy

On the *Airgun World* stand we'll once again be running our successful 'bring and buy' service. If you have an airgun or accessory that you would like to sell, simply leave it with us and tell us how much you are

prepared to sell it for. If someone buys it, you get all the money. If they don't, you get your item back. Either way it costs you nothing.

Charity Auction

At the end of the Airgun Fair we'll be holding an auction of airgun products donated by the stand holders at the Fair — and also of anything our readers wish to contribute. Just bring anything you would like to have auctioned to our stand on the day. All proceeds will go to the Gun and Allied Trades Benevolent Association — which provides help for former members of the gun trade who have fallen on hard times.

Gamekeepers Fair

Organised in conjunction with the BASC, the Airgun Fair is actually part of their Gamekeepers Fair — and there will be plenty of interest going on throughout Packington Park.

From gundog displays and competitions to fly-casting and clay shooting, it promises to be a great day out for all field sports enthusiasts.

Meet The Experts

Apart from the wealth of airgunning expertise on the various trade stands there will also be the chance to speak to some of *Airgun World's* editorial team on our stand.

Various writers will be dropping in during the day — so if you have any questions you would particularly like answered, this is your chance.

HOW TO GET THERE

Packington Park is on the A45 Coventry-Birmingham road, near Meriden, with easy access from the M1 and M6 motorways. The gates open at 10 a.m. and admission to the whole fair is just £2, with children under 14 free. There is no further admission charge for the Airgun Fair.

SMS DEVELOPMENTS

Practice makes perfect — and what better way of improving your skills than in your own home or back garden. The SMS Trapshot offers you all the facilities of full range practice in your own home and has the added bonus of being quick and easy to erect and very easy to use.

The Trapshot portable target also comes in two forms — a kit or ready assembled — and if you're looking for a present or want to improve your skill in the field or on the range, then visit the SMS stand who will only be too pleased to demonstrate how the target can help you get bigger bags and winning scores.

WEBLEY & SCOTT

One of the most famous names in British airguns, Webley have recently made great strides in airgun design and performance with the introduction of their top-rated Omega rifle. Webley have always prided themselves on producing quality, value-for-money products which have received worldwide acclaim. Packington visitors will be able to see the complete range of Webley & Scott rifles and pistols as well as the superb range of Webley accessories, including their new silencers.

If you're thinking about buying a Webley rifle or pistol, visit the Webley stand and see for yourself how Webley are putting the 'Great' back into Britain's airgun industry. Also on display will be the full range of top quality Tasco scopes.

THEOBEN ENGINEERING

Mention the name Sirocco, and many airgunners' eyes immediately light up. One of the most successful rifles of recent years the Sirocco, with its unique power source and superb handling qualities, has presented Theoben with a problem — they can't produce enough! This year Theoben have added several new rifles to their range, including a specially designed field target version of the Sirocco and a special FAC rated rifle called, appropriately, the Eliminator. Also on show will be the Airgun Centre's unique Zephyr 77, featured in last month's issue.

Another recent Theoben development has been the introduction of the Zephyr piston for optimum power and virtually no recoil. Both Dave Theobald and Ben Taylor will be on hand to answer any questions,

and if you're one of the few who haven't seen or handled one of these classy weapons, the Theoben stand is the place to head for.

DUCKHAMS JENOLITE

Gun care is vital if you want your rifle or pistol to maintain optimum performance. There are many excellent gun care products on the market, and Packington visitors will be able to see for the first time a new range of gun care products just launched by oil giants Duckhams.

The range includes specially formulated lubricants and cleaners as well as a complete rebluing kit to keep your weapon in tip-top shape. During the day Duckhams will be demonstrating just how simple it is to keep your weapon in pristine condition, and give a few tips on basic gun care.

AIRMASTERS

Airmasters are the makers of the unique Mastersport and Chameleon range of rifles. A family firm, their commitment to the sport of field target shooting is apparent in the development of custom rifles specifically designed for this growing sport. Better known for their extensive range of field targets marketed under the Knockdown name, Airmasters are not just a shop, but an airgun centre where design and development are of paramount importance in producing products to satisfy the most discerning shooter.

At Packington you'll be able to see all the latest Airmasters products including the futuristically styled Chameleon FTS and the range of superb Zeiss scopes.

ABBEY SUPPLY

One of the foremost names in gun care and maintenance is Abbey. Their range of quality greases, lubricants and silicon sprays is one of the largest around — to help give your airgun the best care possible.

Abbey also produce several handy brochures on airgun care and maintenance, so if you have any gun care problems, visit the Abbey stand. They will be only too pleased to answer your questions and give you the best possible advice on gun care and airgun maintenance.

HILLER AIRGUNS

If you're a collector or just an airgun nut Hiller Airguns is bound to prove to be a real Aladdin's Cave. Well known in the field of vintage airguns, Dennis Hiller is the author of several books on airgun collecting and vintage rifles and pistols.

But not all of Dennis's stand will be devoted to antique weapons and books, as on display will be all the latest weapons and accessories as well as a chrono check facility to ensure that your rifle is producing constant power. If not, Dennis will be only too glad to rectify it!



Meet Bill Sanders from Air Arms at the Fair.

AIR ARMS

Another British manufacturer making great strides in air weapon design and performance is Air Arms. Their range of quality sidelever cocking rifles, including the acclaimed Camargue, has been a tremendous success. Now Air Arms have gone one step further with the introduction of the Khamsin, a sporting rifle combining all the best features from the target shooting world.

Apart from the Khamsin, Air Arms fans will be able to see the complete range of Air Arms guns and quality shooting accessories, including their own range of scopes and new silencers.

SHARPSHOOTERS

If you're after outdoor clothing, look no further than the Sharpshooters stand. Colin Hodgson has one of the largest selections of outdoor clothing suitable for airgunners around. Apart from the extensive array of clothing, Colin will be featuring the range of Air Arms rifles and scopes and some rifle and scope combinations that should make you reach for your cheque book!

Airgun accessories will be in abundance, as well as a unique range of fun targets designed to help you get the most from your sport.

BATTLE ORDERS

Soft airguns are all the rage, and one of the best selections will be found on the Battle Orders stand. For fun and sheer excitement, soft air weapons take some beating. On the Battle Orders stand, you will be able to see all the latest in soft air weapons and collectors of replica militaria will find more than enough to keep them occupied.

AIR FORCE

From the city of steel come Air Force, the square section spring specialists. Made from square section high tensile silicon chrome steel, Air Force springs are available to fit most popular air rifles to give you flatter shooting and a smoother action.

Apart from springs, Air Force will also be displaying their new range of one-piece silencers made from rigid steel to fit all air rifles including the Scorpion pistol. If you haven't joined the 'Air Force' yet, now's your chance!

CITY AIR WEAPONS

'Right on target for prices and stock', is what City Air Weapons claim — and at Packington, you'll have a chance to see a tremendous array of guns, scopes and accessories on the City Air Weapons stand. If you can't afford a new rifle and scope, don't despair as City Air Weapons will have some excellent secondhand air rifles and scope combinations for sale.

City Air Weapons will have plenty for you to look at — and plenty of useful 'bits and pieces' with which to part you from your hard earned cash!

TARGET SPORTS

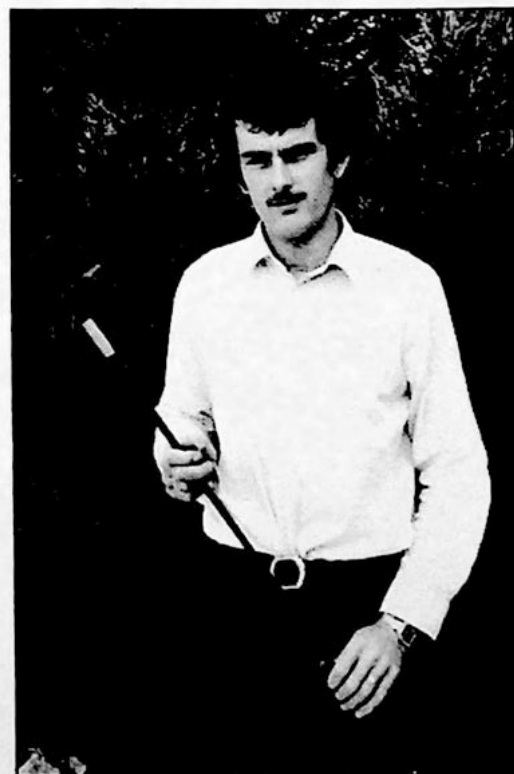
Scopes, pellets, silencers, knives and accessories will all be found on Target Sports' stand. Pride of place will go to Ian Kirby's range of tuned and customised TS rifles, which are superbly engineered and attractively priced.

If you've got a timing or repair problem, ask Target Sports for advice — as apart from running Target Sports and Yorkshire Air Weapons, Ian is an expert shot and will be only too willing to advise you on the best rifle, scope or accessory for your needs.

HARPER CLASSIC GUNS

Airgun World was the first to bring you the news about Steve Harper's unique air cane. Now, for the first time, Steve will be giving the air cane range its first public viewing. Visitors will be able to see the superb workmanship and design innovation that goes into each air cane, as well as the range of ornately carved heads fitted to the air cane range.

Alongside the air canes will be examples of the various modifications Steve can undertake for Orion pistols and Sharp Ace and Innova rifles, including his .25 conversions which feature new barrels specially designed by Harper Classic Guns.



Steve Harper's unique air canes will be on show at Packington Park.

VENOM ARMS



Take a look at the Vantage range on the Venom Arms stand.

One of the highlights of Packington will undoubtedly be the Venom Arms stand, which will feature the superb range of tuned and customised rifles that has brought fame to these Midlands air weapons pioneers.

You will be able to see the complete Varminter range featured in this month's colour pull-out, and the Vantage range with their specially designed stocks and actions. If you're looking for airgun accessories, then the Venom stand is bound to offer you a bewildering choice. But whatever you buy, if it's got the Venom name on it, you can be sure that it will be a product built to last, with Venom's talents as one of the country's leading air weapon specialists being fully used.

P & J SPRINGS

Looking for a spare part for that old air rifle or pistol or a quality spring to put new life into your air weapon? If you are, then a visit to P & J Springs' stand is a must. On display will be a comprehensive array of springs and spares for rifles and pistols old and new — and if you can't find what you want, don't despair, as P & J may be able to make one up for you.

The P & J stand will also feature the complete range of lead free ammunition, with the specially designed Prometheus Truncated pellets for field target shooters and the high performance Titan Black hunting pellets. Ask for John Knibbs, who will be only too pleased to explain the virtues of these revolutionary new pellets.



John Knibbs is the man to talk to at P & J Springs.

ELEY AMMUNITION

Mention ammunition and the name Eley immediately springs to mind. The Eley Wasp airgun pellet has never been more popular, and looks like being one of the top pellets for years to come. Precision made for high performance and accuracy, Eley Wasps are a firm favourite with both field target shooters and hunters — and, as in the soap powder adverts, the recommended choice of many air rifle and pistol manufacturers. If you visit the Eley stand you'll see why Eley Wasps are one of the top pellets and if you haven't tried them, now's your chance.

G & S AIR WEAPONS

Rabbling fans will get their first view of the new range of Freya Night Hawk shooting systems developed by Nick Greenwood. If you've read our report on how the Freya Night Hawk performed in the 1986 *Airgun World Annual*, you'll know just how deadly these lamping outfits can be. Also, you can read how Arthur Shepherd fared with the Freya Night Hawk elsewhere in this issue.

The G & S stand will have on display complete rifles and kits to convert your own rifle and will be demonstrating how versatile their shooting system is for day and night shooting. Night shooting is exciting. If you don't believe us ask Nick Greenwood, who will have you spell-bound with some of his rabbling stories with the Freya Night Hawk!

THE SUPER SHOTS...



Trident



Phantom

Barnett hand crossbows, the ultimate in fire-power and accuracy.

Trident: *Unrivalled for its power and accuracy it's the sharpshooters dream come true, and its superb tailor-made optional accessories make it even sharper.*

Phantom: *A simplified version of Trident that's economically priced to make it ideal for the young enthusiast/beginner.*

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This BSA Challenger could be yours for just 80p.

The rifle will be fitted with a 3-9 x 45 Moonlighter scope.

'QUALITY FIRST' are the simple, but accurate words combination giants Optima Leisure use to describe their products. Optima are one of the few companies still with us today who advertised in the first issue of *Airgun World*, and still provide thousands of readers, old and new, with what Optima pride themselves as, 'a service second to none'.

FIRST PRIZE

To celebrate Optima's continued growth and enviable service record to *Airgun World* readers, we're giving you the chance to win one of Optima's top combinations — a BSA Challenger and an Optima 3-9 x 45 Moonlighter scope, a total package worth over £200!

The BSA Challenger is arguably one of the most attractive new generation air rifles to come from this famous arms manufacturer. From its sporter style, oil finished stock to BSA's new Maxgrip scope rail, the Challenger is already proving that innovation and classic style are a winning combination for the plinker to the serious field shooter.

BSA, like Optima, pride themselves on quality. Consistent power, an excellent trigger and an overall attractive appearance are just some of the Challenger's worthy virtues. Our gun testers said that the Challenger had the lowest muzzle variation they'd ever encountered, making the Challenger an ideal choice for the field target shooter or hunter.

A great rifle deserves a great scope and we think you'll agree that the Optima Moonlighter is certainly that! Probably the best known scope in recent times, the Moonlighter has set a trend that many others have followed. Featuring Optima's superb Range master facility, the Moonlighter, with its unique up and down zero shift, ensures that you are dead-on-centre for every shot.

Each Moonlighter has a black satin, anodised finish to eliminate reflection while the massive 45 mm objective lens gathers and captures the light, making it the ideal scope for night and day shooting. The Moonlighter is also fully adjustable for parallax — in fact, it is best described as simple, quick and fantastic to use. As Optima say, 'the Moonlighter revolutionises shooting with a scope'.

A great rifle, a great scope and a great chance for you to win this great Optima combination for just 80p!

Optimum chance

Great prizes worth
OVER £400 from
Optima Leisure

HOW TO ENTER

All you have to do to win this Optima combination is study the Optima advertisement in this issue to find the answers to the six questions listed on the entry form.

Once you have found the answers, send your completed entry form, together with a cheque or postal order for 80p made payable to *Airgun World*, to the address on the form. The closing date for entries is **Friday May 16th** and the correct answers and the winners' names will be published in our **July** issue.

Persons, or relatives of persons, involved in the preparation of this competition may not enter.

SECOND PRIZE

This month our superb second prize is a Moonlighter scope from Optima Leisure, worth £76.

PLUS TEN GREAT CONSOLATION PRIZES

Ten lucky runners-up will receive Optima's new airgun cleaning kit.

ENTRY FORM

1. In what county are Optima based?
2. How many different Optima scopes are there?
3. What is the size of the Moonlighter's objective lens?
4. The Moonlighter is the ideal scope for what?
5. Name Optima's most expensive scope?
6. Protect your rifle with what?

Name

Address

Tel. No.

If you are under 17 an adult must sign on your behalf and give his/her name and address.....

I enclose a cheque/PO to the value of 80p, made payable to *Airgun World*. In the event of a tie there will be a draw to decide the winner.

If you don't want to spoil your copy of *Airgun World* by cutting out this entry form, just write your answers clearly on a piece of paper.

Send your entry form to **Optima Competition, Airgun World, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BG**. The closing dates for entries is **May 16th**.

Target Sports

456 BLACKBURN ROAD, ASTLEY BRIDGE,
BOLTON, LANCs.
TEL: 0204 55513

YORKSHIRE AIR WEAPONS

209 STANNINGLEY ROAD,
LEEDS 12 TEL: 0532 798039

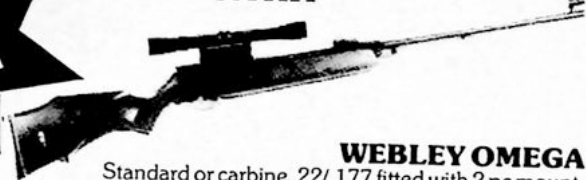
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WEBLEY OMEGA

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ASI 4x40 WA PA BDC. Cammo bag, silencer, swivels,
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T.S. CHALLENGER FROM BSA



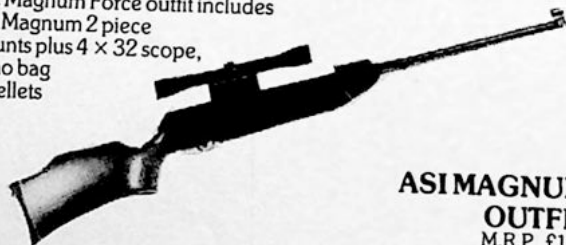
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ASI Magnum 2 piece
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T.S. SPEEDSHOOTER KIT



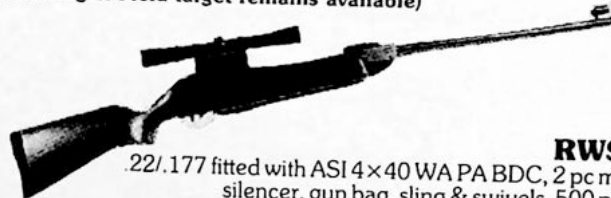
AIRARMS MISTRAL AL

.22 only, fitted with ASI 4x40 WA PA BDC 2 pc mount.
Cammo bag, swivels, custom sling, 500 pellets, silencer
(without open sights)

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T.S. CLUB SPECIAL

(Hunting & Field target remains available)



RWS 45

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silencer, gun bag, sling & swivels, 500 pellets.
Plus a 2 year guarantee

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When ordering Longbows please state camouflage or black finish. Draw length 24"-31", draw weight 30lbs-40lbs, 40lbs-50lbs and 50lbs-60lbs also specify right or left hand.



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Crossbow. Military stock,
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10 field point bolts **£230** or
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Original 75 TO1	£27.00	£5.51
FWB 300 SU	£33.00	£7.48
600	45.00	£8.61
ASI Supermatch	£25.00	£4.98

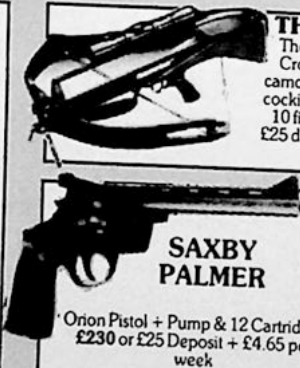
TARGET PISTOLS

	Deposit	Weekly
Original 6M	£13.00	£2.57
FAS 604	£25.00	£4.87
FWB 65	£28.00	£5.44
FWB 80	£33.00	£5.67
FWB 90	£33.00	£6.78



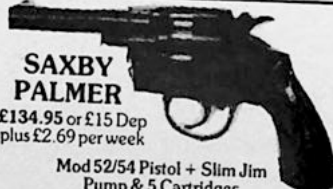
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Compound Longbows
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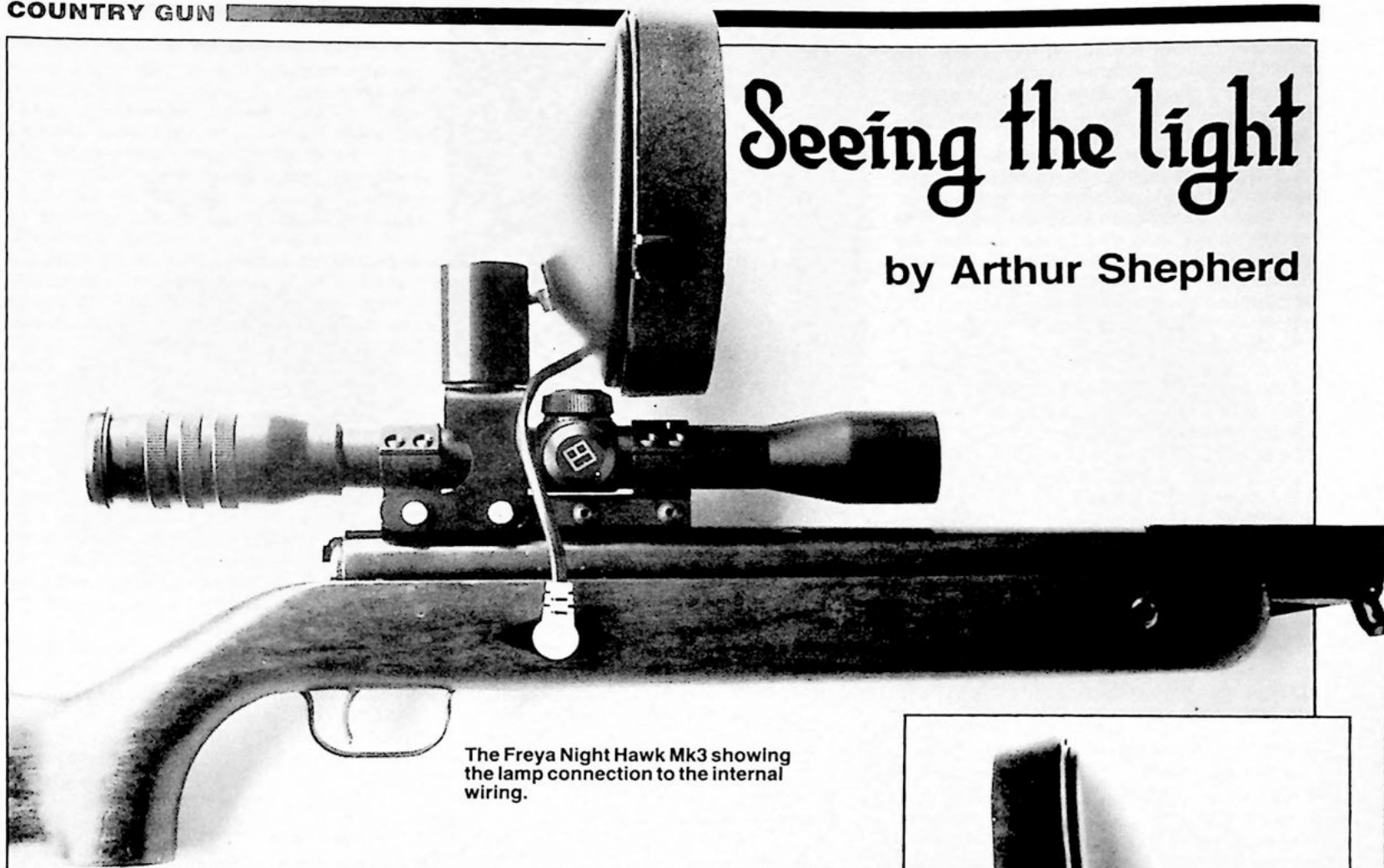
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Seeing the light

by Arthur Shepherd



The Freya Night Hawk Mk3 showing the lamp connection to the internal wiring.

IT WAS LATE on a warm evening last summer when I last tried my hand at lamping rabbits — a sport at which, I must confess, I have little experience. On that occasion, *Airgun World's* Philip Upton and I took a selection of prototype lamping units to test under field conditions. Using the various pieces of equipment supplied by the more inventive airgun enthusiasts, we achieved some success against the vast numbers of rabbits which swarmed out from a small wood to graze on the short grass of nearby pig paddocks.

One of the prototypes we tried on that outing was one that turned out to give us the best chances for shooting. It comprised a large, 12 volt car-type spotlight fixed to the scope mount of a custom designed rifle. The spotlight was activated by a switch in the trigger unit whereby 'first pressure' illuminated the lamp which went off again as soon as pressure on the trigger was released.

The unit was supplied by G & S Air Weapons Developments of Ewhurst, Surrey, who have since modified the switching arrangement and now market the unit as the Freya Night Hawk Mk3. It was with one of these new units that, on a very cold night during the first few days of March, I made my next night-time assault on the local rabbit population.

The Freya Night Hawk Mk3 is available in two forms — either as a kit, which G & S Air Weapons Developments fit to your own rifle, or as a complete unit with the electrics fitted to a Weihrauch HW77K. My test unit supplied for the field test was, in fact, fitted to a Feinwerkbau Sport Mk II in .22 calibre

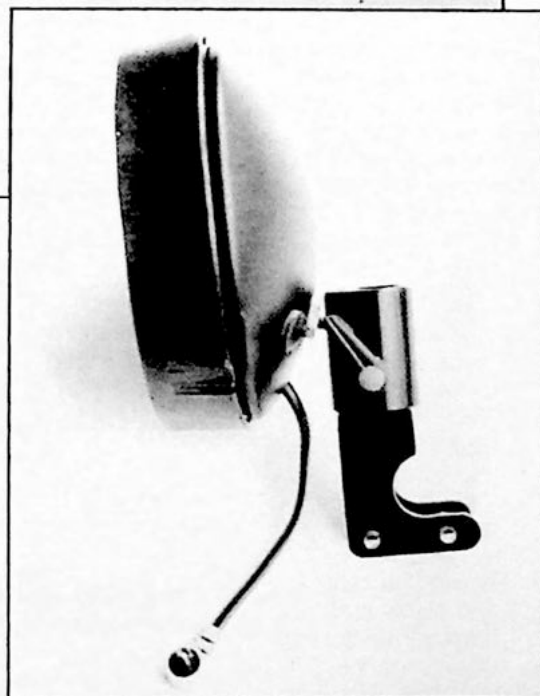
with a rosewood custom stock. The Feinwerkbau Sport is such a well known, popular rifle that there is no need for me to go into further detail — suffice to say that this particular model was well up to the high standard set by the maker. But the choice of rosewood for a stock was a bit out of the ordinary. To my somewhat conservative eye, which is used to dark stained beech or the deep browns of quality walnut, the distinctive bright red colour of the rosewood at first seemed over the top with an almost plastic look about it. After a time I did begin to like its cheerful appearance, although I cannot quite see myself replacing the lovely walnut of my Sirocco with rosewood.

The shape of the stock was good, the high comb bringing my eye in line with the scope and the slim fore-end fitted the hand nicely. A one-piece mount held a Kassnar 4 x 32 scope firmly in position, which also acts as a base for attaching the spotlight.

The electrics consist of a 6 inch 100 watt halogen spotlight, an ingenious system of connections via a pressure switch located on the top of the pistol grip and a power belt which carries a sealed 12 volt battery and controller. A mains charger unit is also supplied as part of the kit.

Fitting and removing the lamp is simple. A mounting bracket which passes over the scope is attached to the scope mount by four Allen headed screws. Removing these screws allows the complete lamp and bracket to be detached in a matter of seconds without disturbing the scope, so the rifle can be converted to normal daylight use without having to re-zero the optics.

Connecting the lamp to the mounting



The mounting bracket passes over the scope and fits onto the mount.

bracket is a ball and socket head from a camera tripod with a quick release lever. This allows easy beam adjustment without any sign of accidental movement of the lamp due to recoil. The clip-on grille which protects the lamp glass can also be used to hold a red filter if you wanted to reduce the light intensity, although this is not supplied.

The electrical lead from the lamp plugs firmly into a socket on the side of the fore-end. This does not get in the way of your hand when shooting, but allows easy disconnection when the lamp is removed.

The internal wiring connects the fore-end socket via a pressure switch on the top of the stock close to the safety catch. Another three pin socket let into the base of the pistol grip provides the connection between the gun and the power pack. A coiled lead passes from here to connect by a jack plug

continued on page 24

with the controller unit on the power belt worn around the shooter's waist, which also carries the rechargeable power pack. The controller unit and power pack are joined by a non-removable cable.

My first job on receiving the rifle and lamp unit was to adjust the eye relief of the scope and zero the unit at 25 yards. I did this with the lamp removed to make access to the scope easier, and also to test whether the scope moved when the lamp was refitted. In the event it did not and I was able to hit my empty shotgun cartridge cases at 25 yards with acceptable regularity — well, in the daylight at least!

But would I be able to hit them by the light of the lamp? At 8.30 the same evening on a cold, clear night I retired to my range in the garden and tried again. First, I had to adjust the lamp so that the centre of the beam fell fully on the target at 25 yards. This took a little time and had some surprising side effects. I first switched on the lamp by accident as my uneducated grip on the small of the stock depressed the pressure switch and I discovered that on a dark night, a 100 watt halogen lamp gives a lot of light!

It also happened to be pointing obliquely skyward at the time and the woodpigeon roosting in a small clump of fir trees at the end of the garden departed hurriedly and noisily as the powerful beam swept across the branches. A couple of lovers in the bushes bordering the secluded footpath which runs alongside the woodland were not pleased either, when, not wishing to be arrested for signalling to a passing spy satellite, I quickly lowered the beam only to catch them fully embraced!

After a discreet interval, with the light switched off, I tried again and this time managed to adjust the lamp to shine in the correct place. I had hit several of my targets before I noticed lights on in the back rooms of the neighbouring houses and heard low mutterings from several nearby gardens. 'Well, what do you expect if you light up the neighbourhood back gardens until it looks like a scene from *Close Encounters*', said my wife when I finally crept back into the house!

Two evenings later I was out in the field looking for rabbits after warning the farmer and all his staff not to panic if they saw the back paddock lit up like Heathrow Airport. It wasn't the best night for lamping rabbits, with very little wind to dispel any scent or to cover those small inevitable noises you always make when moving about the countryside in the dark, clad in thick warm clothes and heavy boots.

Overhead, a myriad of stars shimmered in the hard blackness. The frost tightened its grip until the fields creaked with cold,



My first foray with the prototype kit was successful.

somewhere in the wood an owl screeched and in the distance a fox barked twice. But nowhere were rabbits to be seen, although the crops of winter corn had been grazed off in wide bands alongside the hedges and the farmer had complained he was overrun with them.

Eventually, after almost two hours wandering around in the cold and dark, I caught three rabbits out in the open right in the middle of the powerful beam. Two were too far off to shoot, but the closest one offered a sporting chance, especially as he began to move directly toward me along the blaze of light.

At first I couldn't pick him up through the scope, although I could have shot him using open sights, but as he came even closer at last I had a chance to place the cross-hairs on his bright, pink eye. I was just about to line him up for a shot when a heavy hand fell on my shoulder, almost frightening the life out of me, and a gruff voice demanded, 'Now then, just what the dickens do you think you're at?'

If my brains hadn't been so affected by the cold, my heart beating at about 120 to

the minute and the dark figure so large, I'd have probably come up with some smart answer like, 'Just waiting for a bus'. As it was, I stammered something about shooting rabbits and was most relieved when the shadowy figure released his grip and went off into peals of laughter. 'I thought it was probably you', he said, 'so I thought I'd give you a bit of a surprise.'

'Surprise nothing', I replied, somewhat aggrieved, for now I had recognised the owner of the voice as another local farmer. 'Apart from damn near frightening me to death, you made me miss the only chance I've had to shoot a rabbit all evening,' I said. 'Don't worry, you'll get plenty more chances before the year's out', he said, still chuckling.

As we walked back to my car he explained that he had been out tending sheep and lambs when he saw the light across the field and decided to investigate. When he saw the car he recognised it as mine, but thought he'd better make sure. 'When I realised you hadn't heard me coming up behind you, I couldn't resist the temptation to give you a bit of a fright', he finished. And he did, too!

My verdict on the Freya Night Hawk? Well, from my limited experience of both the unit and of lamping rabbits I would rate it a good tool for the job. At 10 lb, it is a little heavy to carry around for long periods and I think the light is maybe too bright when a 100 watt bulb is fitted. Perhaps the answer would be to fit a red filter or reduce the wattage to 50 watts. I also think a scope with a larger object lens, say a 40 mm wide-angle, would be more suitable for night shooting. At £150 for the kit, which includes fitting and an overhaul of the rifle supplied and around £350 for a complete unit including a rifle, you would have to contemplate a fair amount of night shooting to justify the outlay.

With luck, as the weather improves, I hope to have more chances to test the kit in the field and report further. I would also appreciate any tips from *Airgun World* readers who are more experienced than I am at this lamping game!



The lamp's pressure switch is on top of the pistol grip.

The Feinwerkbau Sport with the lamp removed.

ZOOM UP TO A SCOPE FROM AIR ARMS

NEW



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FROM . . .**

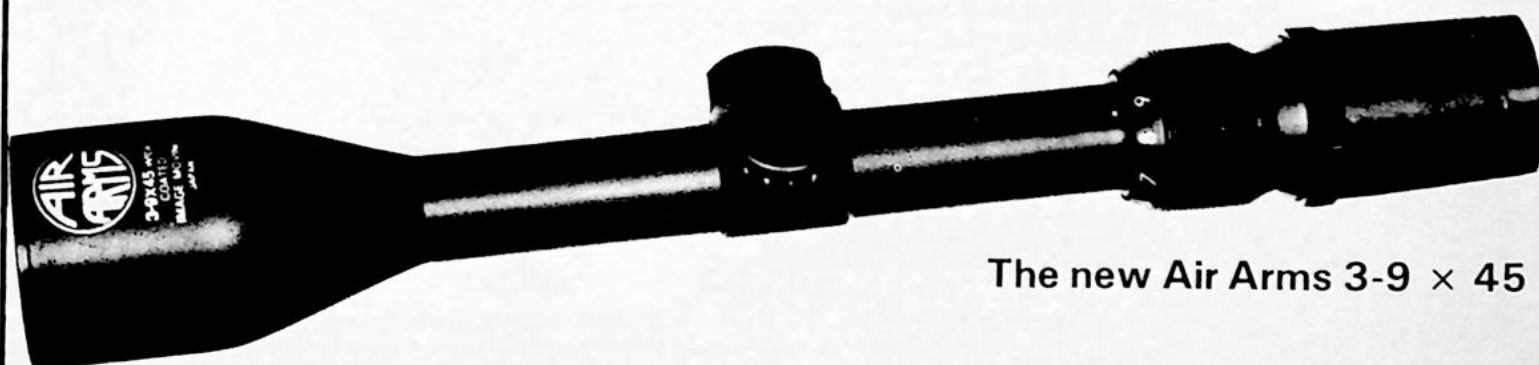


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SCOPES YOU CAN TRUST

AIR ARMS, Hailsham Industrial Park, Diplocks Way, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JF.

AIRGUN ENTHUSIASTS will no doubt be delighted to learn that Theoben Engineering have added a modified version of their unique Sirocco air rifle to their range — designed specifically to shoot Prometheus pellets.

When the Theoben Sirocco was first manufactured it was found that the type of barrel used shredded the Prometheus skirts, which at that time were not lubricated, and consequently a warning was sent out with their air rifles that only quality lead pellets must be used or the guarantee would be void.

With due respect the surface finish of the original Theoben barrel did not match the superb 'mirror' quality of the present Anschütz barrels, but even these excellent barrels were still not suitable for Prometheus pellets. This was because the barrels were 'choked', which catered for a greater number of lead pellets to be shot through them, as the choke corrects those undersized lead pellets which would otherwise have been 'fliers'.

Unfortunately the choked barrel was detrimental to the Prometheus, and after a few shots the barrel became fouled at the choke. It was too much to ask the distortion free Prometheus now to distort through the choke.

This was an ironic situation, as the most innovative air rifle and pellet available were not compatible, and there did not seem any simple way that this problem could be solved.

At Pax Airguns in North London there is a test range where air rifle and pellet

It's no choke!

Barrels for Prometheus pellets by John Fletcher

combinations are regularly tested for accuracy and power. Venom tuned Weihrauch HW80s in .177 and .22 calibres are mounted in the recoil reducing test rig, and they are the standard of accuracy against which all other air rifle/pellet combinations are judged. In a recent controlled test both air rifles produced five shot groups at 10 metres of a mere 2 mm centre to centre using Prometheus Truncated pellets.

What has this got to do with the new Theoben you may well ask? All will be revealed.

In September 1985 a customer called into Pax Airguns to have his .22 'hand-built' air rifle tested for accuracy. The rifle looked as if it should have been on the scrap-heap — so you can imagine the surprise when it matched the Venom 80 for accuracy.

It then transpired that it was fitted with an Anschütz barrel — not from an air rifle but from a .22 rim-fire. This does not have any form of choke and has deep cut rifling, unlike the .22 air rifle barrel, which has very shallow rifling but a greater number of rifling grooves. As there was no evidence of any form of nylon fouling in the barrel of this 'mongrel', even after firing two boxes of pellets, the above information was relayed to Ben Taylor at Theoben.

A prototype was built using a .22 match

FIG 1



rifle barrel which had to be turned down to fit the Theoben breech block. Then on January 24th, 1986 Dave Theobald and Ben Taylor duly arrived at Pax Airguns armed with the prototype.

The rifle was mounted in the accuracy testing rig and was remarkably consistent and accurate, as shown by the five shot groups at 10 metres, using Prometheus hunting pellets, Figure 1. The question now was whether this rifle firing Prometheus pellets was capable of matching the Theoben fitted with the standard choked Anschütz air rifle barrel and using leading

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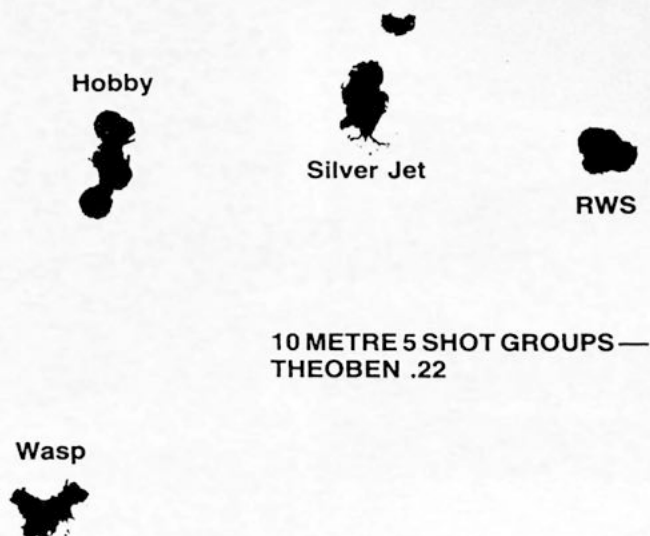
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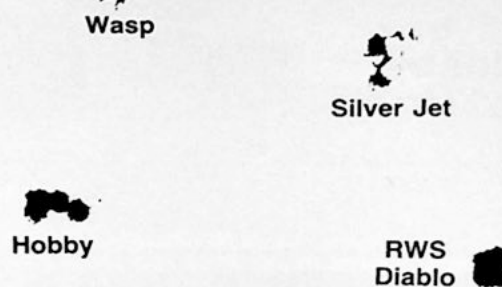
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**FIG 2
WITH CHOKE**



**10 METRE 5 SHOT GROUPS —
THEOBEN .22**

**FIG 4
WITHOUT CHOKE**



**10 METRE 5 SHOT GROUPS —
THEOBEN .22**

FIG 3

**THEOBEN UNCHOKED
BARREL
5 SHOT GROUP
(Prometheus)**

**THEOBEN UNCHOKED
BARREL
2-5 SHOT GROUP
PROMETHEUS HUNTING
PELLETS**

removing the choke on the accuracy of the lead pellets?

The same lead pellets were tested as before, using the same air rifle but with the choke removed — and there was no significant difference in the group sizes, as shown in *Figure 4*. You must remember that the lead pellets used were leading makes. Surprisingly, some airgunners are prepared to buy a Theoben — which is not cheap — and still use cheap, unsuitable pellets, which need the choke to help accuracy.

It is all very well testing an air rifle in what can be described as ideal conditions, but how will it perform in the field?

The Theoben was fitted with a Tasco 4 × 40 scope and test fired, hand held at a distance of 30 yards during the afternoon of February 2nd, 1986, with the results shown in *Figure 5*.

This seemed satisfactory, but Ben Taylor observed that the group was spreading upwards — almost certainly due to muzzle flip. A muzzle weight was fitted and the groups tightened remarkably.

We now have an amazing air rifle combination, that has a firing cycle second to none, with a very fast lock time, reduced recoil — and accuracy which will be very hard to surpass.

To avoid any confusion with the Theoben air rifles which have choked barrels and are unsuitable for Prometheus, the unchoked barrels are marked 'Prometheus'. They are suitable for both Prometheus and quality lead pellets and will cost the same as their choked barrel counterpart.

This modified air rifle will be available exclusively from Pax Airguns and at present will conform to the UK legal limit of 12 ft lbs muzzle energy. Development is continuing to check its performance for an FAC version, and test results of this will be reported in the near future.

FIG 5

**PROMETHEUS HUNTING
THEOBEN UNCHOKED BARREL
— .22
5 SHOT 30YDS HAND HELD —
OUTDOORS BLUSTERY
CONDITIONS**

brands of lead pellet.

Such a Theoben was mounted in the test rig and Ben Taylor obtained the five shot test pattern shown in *Figure 2*. This shows that the prototype, when using Prometheus hunting pellets, exceeded most of the lead pellets tested and was on a par with the very tight group produced by the RWS Diabolo.

It is little use having a wonderful product that is not commercially viable, however, and in this case the cost of turning down the thick Match barrel was prohibitive.

It was then that Ben Taylor suggested that it would be possible to produce a modified Theoben using the standard Anschütz air rifle barrel but with the choke removed. On looking through the Anschütz air rifle barrel — which resembled a smoothbore — it seemed unlikely that the high velocity Prometheus would grip the very shallow rifling, as is necessary to produce its gyroscopic stability.

The choke of the barrel was removed and the test results were surprising to say the least — *Figure 3*. This shows a five shot group at 10 metres measuring less than 2 mm centre to centre, using Prometheus pellets. Group after group was fired and the largest five shot group was only 5 mm — and the barrel remained spotlessly clean.

The question that will be foremost in many minds, is what about the effect of

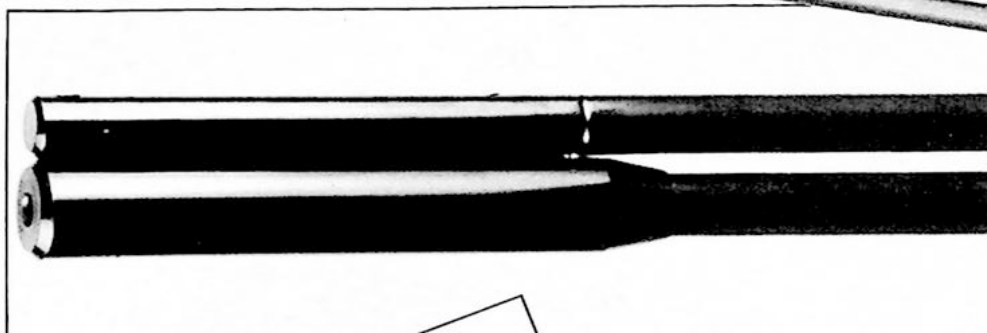


**Hugh Earl of Pax Airguns with the modified
Theoben Sirocco.**

THE

Zephyr 77...

by Wally Pope

Photos by
David Linaker

The Theoben designed silencer and cocking lever latch.

Left: The PTFE coated piston and spring.

Below: The metalwork finish is superb.

SPECIFICATIONS

Maker:	The Airgun Centre, Rayleigh, Essex
Model:	Zephyr 77
Calibre Tested:	.22
Barrel Length:	18 inches
Overall Length:	43½ inches
Weight with Scope Sights:	11 lbs
Trigger:	Weihrauch Rekord
Price:	£325
Scope:	Zeiss 3-9 × 36
Price:	£399

SUMMARY

Metal Finish: A highly polished finish with an excellent deep blue lustre. (10).

Stock Finish: Highly figured French walnut, oil finished. Adjustable buttplate with chequered pistol grip. (10).

Handling: A heavier than normal rifle giving excellent stability and balance. (10).

Trigger: Weihrauch Rekord trigger, fully adjustable — two stage. (10).

Accuracy: Superb. (10).

Power: Right on the legal limit of 12 ft lbs. (10).

Value For Money: A specialised weapon meeting a highly demanding target discipline and as such, must be regarded as excellent value for money. (10).

DURING THE LAST two years as *Airgun World* gun testers, we've tested many of the customised rifles available today. These have been mainly sporting rifles, with prices in the upper price bracket. The majority of rifles tested prior to customisation were already producing power right up to the legal limit and acceptable levels of accuracy. Apart from some specialised lubrication and perhaps internal polishing, very little can be done mechanically without the rifle producing power over the legal limit.

The customised rifles we've tested have shown a marked improvement in ease and smoothness of cocking, and a higher degree of consistency in the maker's or customiser's quest for super accurate weapons. The major difference between most standard rifles and their custom versions is the stock, and there is no doubt that the quality of the wood, finish, chequering and overall workmanship is extremely attractive.

The resulting cosmetic changes are just as important as the various technical improvements when it comes to selling the gun. These changes don't come cheaply, just like so many other high quality items.

This month our test gun is different from many other customised rifles we've

reviewed, as some internals in its 'boiler room' have been improved. The gun in question is the Zephyr 77, produced and distributed by the Airgun Centre in Rayleigh, Essex. As its name implies, the Zephyr 77 is based on the Weihrauch HW77K MkII, which features an anti-bear trap safety device together with the Weihrauch safety cage on the rear of the cylinder.

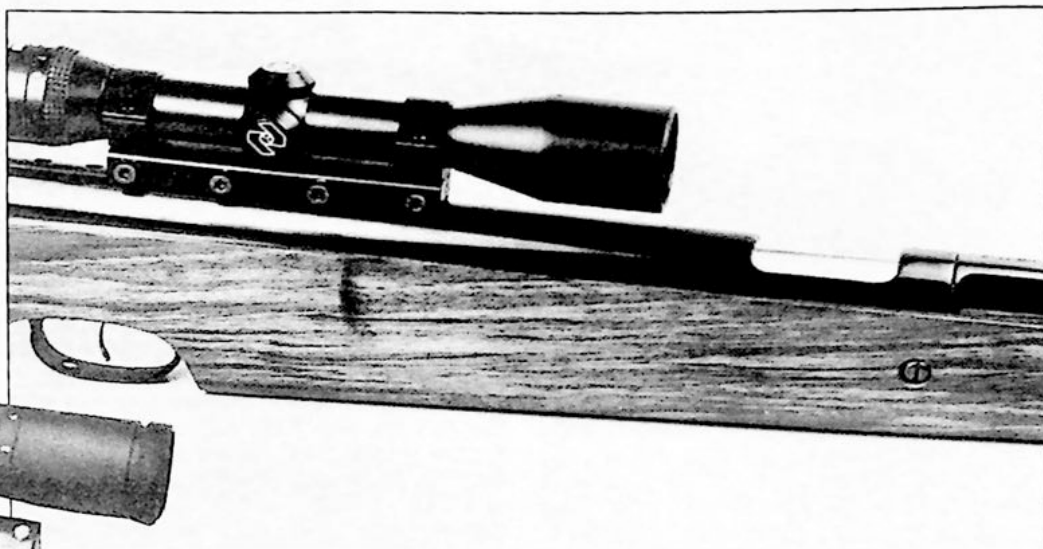
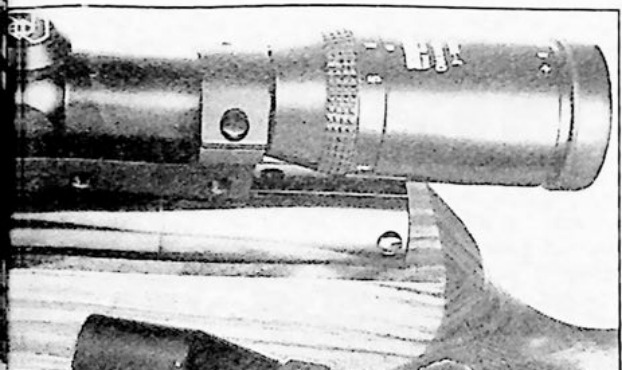
The Zephyr 77 arrived in a smart, full length box. Apart from knowing its name and where it originated from, I had no idea what to expect. When I opened the box, I was certainly impressed. After close study and handling, I immediately warmed to it, with the deep blueing and finely figured stock presenting a beautiful picture.

The test rifle was a carbine version of the Weihrauch HW77 with an overall barrel length of 18 inches, including the silencer. The silencer also incorporates the Theoben designed cocking lever latch, which is made of steel and beautifully blued. The overall finish of the barrel and receiver was up to normal Weihrauch standards, which says a lot in itself. A deep polished blue gives protection from corrosion — as well as cosmetic excellence — and this was equally as good, if not better, than many shotguns.

The Zephyr 77 has an 8½ inch scope dovetail, which is long enough to accommodate every eye relief imaginable. The French walnut stock is really something else. It is a true sporter style, with a long, deep fore-end which is unusually recessed along its sides for improved hand-hold. The pistol grip is deep and incorporates a pronounced palm-swell which is also available for left-handed shooters.

The Monte Carlo rollover cheekpiece is high, and has obviously been designed for use with scope sights. It is well shaped to suit all shooters, which is an excellent achievement in itself. The butt is another notable difference when comparing the Zephyr 77 to other custom rifles, with a vertically adjustable buttplate located and locked by one recessed control bolt. This allows the user to vary the position by two inches, up or down.

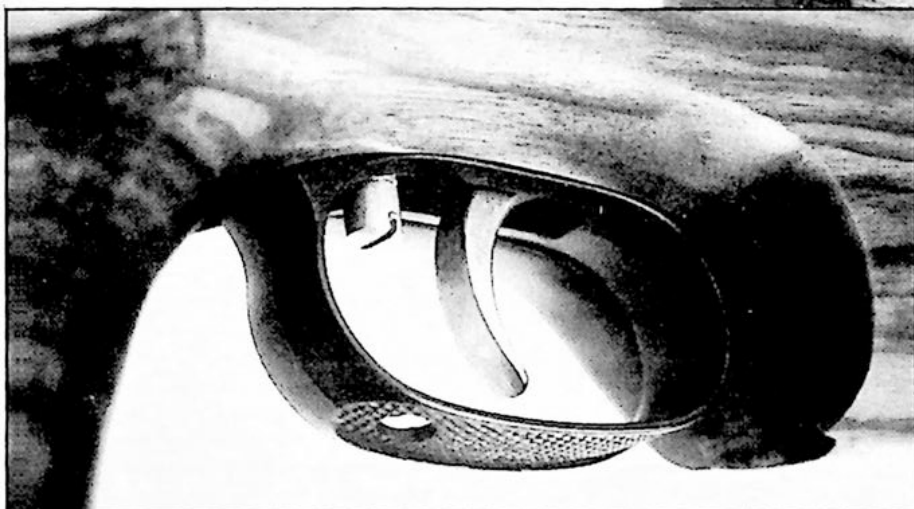
Another nice feature is that the bolt is captive within the buttplate, preventing it becoming lost or mislaid. The surfaces



Above: The fore-end is recessed along its sides for improved grip.



Top: The superb Zeiss 3-9 x 36 scope.



Left: The legendary Rekord trigger unit.

incorporate the aluminium locking plates which appear as butt spacers in the cosmetic sense. This makes a nice change from the usual white plastic spacers.

Due to the size and density of the Zephyr 77's stock, the overall weight of the rifle, including a scope, is a hefty 11¼ lbs. Everyone who handled the rifle commented on its weight, which may deter some shooters.

There is no doubt that the Zephyr 77's main role is a field target rifle. Every aspect of its design is ideal for shooting from a static position, and due to its weight the Zephyr 77 is not a rifle I'd relish taking out hunting. As a one shot killer, the Zephyr 77, in the right hands, is a super weapon.

The stock graining on our test rifle was very pronounced, and combined with its smooth oil finish, it is without doubt one of the most attractive stocks I can recall seeing. The Airgun Centre promise that this standard of stock finish will be maintained, which is quite a statement considering the quality of the stock on the test rifle. Very few photographs could do justice to the Zephyr 77's stock — it was that impressive.

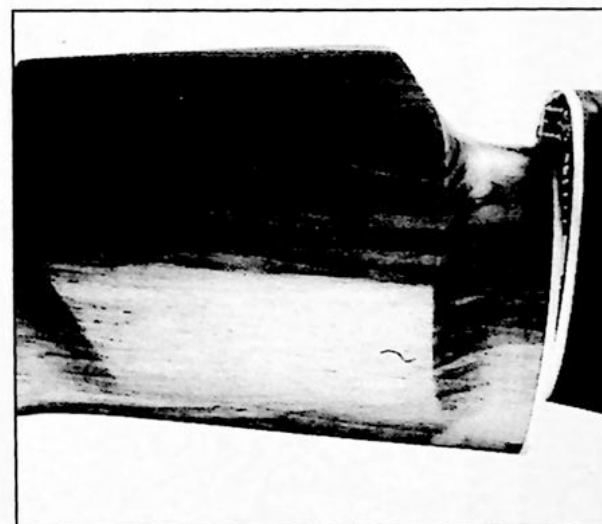
The trigger unit and guard are of standard Weihrauch design and are

regarded by many as being the most efficient production trigger units fitted on any rifle. I found no reason to adjust it.

Now to the power unit, which is where most of the modifications have been made. First, the piston is oval turned which means that contact between the piston and the cylinder walls is restricted to two small areas — the piston top and bottom — the sides being machined away. This reduces the area of friction which in turn gives a much faster piston velocity.

Originally developed by Theoben Engineering, the Zephyr piston configuration is the basis for the rifle's name. To keep friction co-efficient minimal, the walls of the piston head are concave, giving two narrow edges of contact against the cylinder walls. The leading edge creates an excellent air seal on the power stroke, with the rear edge acting as a wiper blade, preventing any lubricant passing to the front of the piston which effectively eliminates dieselling.

The face of the Zephyr piston has channels cut across its surface which feed the vestige of compressed air to the transfer port. During its manufacture, molybdenum has been moulded into the



The buttplate is fully adjustable.

piston, enabling it to function with the minimum of lubricants. The Zephyr piston unit as a whole — spring, piston and head — makes maximum use of the available air and helps play a major part in creating consistency which was apparent during the test.

The mainspring is a specially produced component made from silicon chrome steel which, during its development tests, gave performance figures exemplary in both power and long life. Both the spring and piston are coated with PTFE giving an excellent friction-free finish. When the specialised lubricants supplied with each

rifle are applied, friction is reduced and helps to contribute to the higher piston velocity.

So how did the Zephyr 77 perform? Well, after a zeroing session on the 10 metre range — which is important with any scoped weapon — I fired a couple of shots through the Skan chronograph and it was immediately obvious, without making any calculations, that power was right on the legal limit.

Shooting single hole groups was simplicity itself. The rifle's weight provided excellent stability over the bench, and the excellent Weihrauch Rekord trigger unit reminded me very much of my .22 match rifle. The Airgun Centre recommend RWS Superdome and Diabolo pellets. I used these for chronograph testing and also Eley

Wasp, Silver Jet and H & N Baracuda pellets, to see how each one varied. Apart from the point of impact when using the Baracuda pellets, group sizes remained the same!

On Sunday afternoon I tried the Zephyr 77 out on the 25 yard range and was glad that the rifle was fitted with excellent optics as the weather was very dull and wet. The test rifle was supplied with a Zeiss 3-9 $\times$ 36 variable power scope fitted on a Sportsmatch mount. I couldn't detect parallax at any distance and can only conclude that the scope had been adjusted for air weapon use by the manufacturer.

Once I got into the rhythm of loading and handling the weight of the Zephyr 77, nice, tight groups started to appear. While shooting from a table, the similarity to a .22 LR target weapon was quite striking. The rifle was steady on aim with nothing from me but a firm, steady hold.

The trigger let-off was delightful with tight groups resulting using the RWS Superdome and Diabolo pellets. Both produced groups from $\frac{3}{16}$ inch- $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, with the majority falling between $\frac{3}{16}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. When I used Silver Jet pellets comparable group sizes were obtained, but other pellets

fired resulted in slightly larger groups, although, with one exception, the Zephyr accepted most of the leading pellet brands.

Moving the pellet catcher back to 40 yards resulted in an average group size of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. I regard this level of accuracy as exemplary, and apart from one or two fliers which I called, almost every shot I fired would have been a hit on a field target course, which is what the Zephyr has been designed for. Shooting over a rest is different from actual competition shooting where the pressure is really on and the shooter only has a limited amount of shots.

Apart from testing the production version of the Zephyr 77, I also had a chance to test a standard Weihrauch HW77 fitted with the Zephyr modified internals. Although accuracy was on par with the actual test rifle, it wasn't as comfortable as the Zephyr 77, which proved to me just how brilliant the Zephyr 77 concept is.

There is no doubt that the Zephyr 77 will find fame with field target shooters and I for one will be looking with interest just how successful the rifle will be. With the continual advance in air weapon design and technology — and believe me, what is under the wraps at the moment is mind-boggling — the 1-10 rating we usually use in our gun tests can no longer apply!

As testers, we think the Zephyr 77 deserves ten out of ten for everything, thinking we are facing the ultimate in air rifle perfection. But what next? Soon we could be faced with another improved stage of advancement — who knows!

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THE ROYAL SOCIETY for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals — the RSPCA — is short of money and has recently launched a campaign to raise funds. I have always subscribed to the RSPCA, as do many sporting shooters over the years. Let's face it, none of us can deny that the RSPCA has done its duty in preventing suffering to wild and domestic animals and birds since its inception in 1824.

In 1985, the RSPCA's 229 inspectors in England and Wales investigated 64,678 cases of cruelty — an increase of over 17,000 cases investigated in 1984. Successful prosecutions jumped from 1,869 in 1984, to 2,112 in 1985 — an all-time record that seems to indicate that the general public are not as caring towards animals as we would like to imagine.

But what has all this to do with airgunners? Well, quite frankly, if you hunt with any kind of weapon it has a great deal to do with us because the RSPCA are against hunting of any kind, especially with airguns.

Recently, *Guns Review* printed a statement begging its readers not to support the RSPCA. They stated that, 'Every penny paid to the RSPCA is another nail in the coffin for the shooting man... and the demise of the RSPCA would be a matter of no great concern. We really must fight back against those who would destroy us'.

Strong words indeed, perhaps bordering on the alarmist, but should we take any heed of them? Is the RSPCA trying to stop us from hunting and if so, why?

I decided to find out for myself and made an appointment to see Colin Booty, Wildlife Officer at the RSPCA headquarters in Horsham, Sussex.

I must add that before I interviewed Mr Booty, the RSPCA's response to my telephone enquiries to other branches and to their Press Office was to refer me to the RSPCA policy statement from their publication *Policies on Animal Welfare*. This simply states that 'The RSPCA is opposed to the use of air weapons and crossbows in the shooting of animals'.

Shooting animals with crossbows is illegal, so it seems that from the RSPCA statement, airgunners are grouped together with those people who illegally use crossbows on live quarry. The Press Office also stated that they would not reply to the *Guns Review* article as they considered the magazine too insignificant a publication to warrant a reply. This gave me the impression that the RSPCA had adopted a 'high and mighty' attitude to all hunting men and women. However, I am relieved to say that after talking to Colin Booty, my impressions changed considerably.

Mr Booty's first statement was that current RSPCA policies are based on *The Medway Report*, the full title of which is *The report of the Panel of Enquiry into Shooting and Angling*. This was drawn up in 1979 and the panel, chaired by Lord Medway, took three years to complete it. The report deals with all aspects of hunting, but the sections that concern us are those dealing with air weapons.

There isn't enough space here to publish the report in full, but extracts from Paragraphs 66 and 67 state that, 'Most airguns and air rifles are .177 calibre'. And

Friend Or Foe?

**Tom Downes
talks to the
RSPCA**

'In cases of undoubted misuse larger animals, including foxes and cattle are shot and wounded'.

Paragraph 208 states that, 'Models are often given names with militaristic overtones, eg "carbine" or "parabellum". In another advertisement, a casually dressed female model stands aggressively, with an upward pointing air rifle resting nonchalantly on her shoulder. The similarity to a terrorist is clear... dealers have a duty to emphasise that their products should be used for target shooting'.

In Section 7 of the report entitled 'Summary of recommendations', Paragraphs 288 and 289 under the heading 'Air Weapons' states... 'advertisements and similar literature should not promote their use against living animals... air weapons should be regarded primarily as suitable for target shooting, in which capacity their use can provide valuable training'.

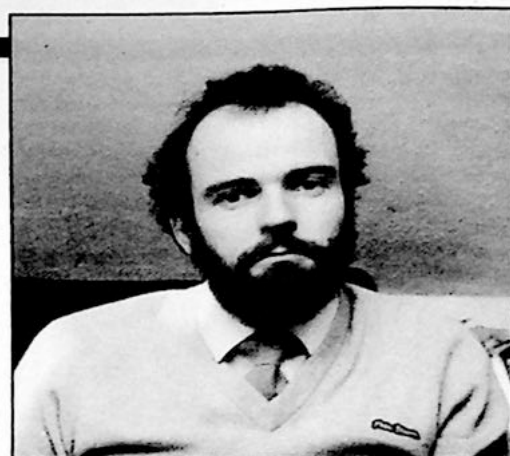
'COWBOYS'

Having studied this report in full, it is obvious to me that although expert advice was sought from shotgun users, little or nothing was sought from airgun experts. When the report was being completed, *Airgun World* was in its second year of publication, but the panel never consulted the publishers.

When I questioned Mr Booty about vermin shooting — rabbits, pigeon and grey squirrels — for food, he had only small reservations about it. However, shooting for sport is a definite 'no'. Shooting for sport presumably means shooting animals and birds that nobody intends to eat.

'I understand that we live in a practical world', says Mr Booty, 'and that vermin must be controlled. However, it is the indiscriminate shooting of wildlife by unskilled persons that most concerns the RSPCA. We know that "cowboys" who have no training either in the safe use of guns, marksmanship and the proper identification of quarry do enormous damage, either by wounding animals and birds and not having the skill or knowledge to despatch them humanely, or by shooting protected species of wildlife'.

I pointed out to Mr Booty that since its first issue in August 1977, *Airgun World* had printed hundreds of articles dealing with effective ranges of air weapons, quarry identification and the achievement of shooting vermin skilfully. No other publication — past or present — dealing



'I would like to see airguns licensed', says Colin Booty of the RSPCA.

with hunting, has shown more care in the protection of the environment and the education of its readers.

Mr Booty replied, 'Yes, that may be so, but I estimate the readership of *Airgun World* as about 100,000. This represents only a small proportion of airgun owners in the UK and many of these people who are not educated in the skills of proper hunting do use airguns on wildlife and cause suffering to animals. I would like to see airguns and crossbows licensed', he said.

I then asked Mr Booty what he felt this would achieve and he said, 'Put simply, it would make them harder to obtain'. I felt that this represented a negative attitude, but Mr Booty continued. 'The whole purpose of the Society is to prevent the ill treatment of animals. We seek to find legal means of achieving our aims and we lobby MPs to introduce legislation to further the aims of the Society. Among the EEC countries, only Britain and Ireland allow people to hunt without a licence. Ireland is in the process of introducing legislation, so Britain will soon stand alone in this respect. The licence would require the introduction of tests that the shooter must pass before he is granted a hunting licence. These tests would include safety, skill tests and the identification of legitimate quarry'.

Mr Booty also added that, 'Such tests have proved very successful in Holland and Germany. At present, there is a voluntary test in the UK offered by the BASC, but I would like to see such tests made compulsory before a licence is granted'.

Basically, the current RSPCA attitude to shooting with firearms and airguns is one that should concern us all. Mr Booty has an honourable aim in life, as does the Society he represents — the care of animals. It is an aim that all of us should possess and I am sure that most of us do.

Whatever happens, we cannot fail to support the RSPCA. The numerous tasks performed by the society that do not relate to hunting must receive our support, but I do feel that what is missing is genuine rapport between us and them. Serious discussions are in order.

In my opinion, the conference table is the best way to settle disagreements. I feel that the policy statement adopted by the RSPCA regarding air weapons is partially based on ignorance and it is up to the acknowledged experts in our field to put the facts straight.

Do we need a hunting licence, and how can we prevent airgun hooliganism? Any readers' comments would be welcome.

One-off wonder!

**Gary Brocklehurst
describes a unique pistol**

The pistol has many unique features, but basically it's a sidelever cocking tap loader. Everyone who has seen it mentions how much it resembles a Titan air pistol. I am not sure whether it's a prototype or a home made one-off but the workmanship is very good and the general construction and design are very well thought out. The main frame is made from what appears to be a forging, which makes me think it's probably a prototype, as the average DIY enthusiast doesn't have forging facilities.

Everything attached to the frame is made of steel, and all the fixings are made with screws — there are no pins or similar fixing devices at all. Under the red fibre hand grips of the frame, metal has been removed by rough machining and then tidied with a file. The grips are held in position with four screws instead of the usual two.

The trigger guard is made from solid steel and is held in place by two small screws, similar to those used on Webley air pistols. The steel two-stage trigger is nicely curved and quite wide, enabling a nice, clean

trigger pull. The sear is also steel and has a pin to act as a location for the sear spring. A piece of flat spring steel serves as a spring for the trigger, which has a very light, crisp pull of about 3 lbs, and again the trigger and sear are held by screws. The working surfaces of both the trigger and sear are hardened and tempered to prevent wear in these vulnerable areas.

The round cocking lever is of solid steel and has its two cocking pivot arms brazed onto it — similar to the barrel of a Webley air pistol. The end arm is attached to the pivot on the end plug of the air chamber, and the other is connected to the intermediate cocking lever with a screw. The lever is shaped to hold the cocking slide, which engages with the pistol through a slot in the main frame, with the cocking slide pivoting on yet another screw. The end plug is screwed into the end of the air chamber and is held in position by a set screw.

The other end of the plug has a pivot post on which the cocking lever is attached,

The pistol with the loading tap closed (left) and open.

OCCASIONALLY you discover something that fascinates you. It may be of very simple design and construction, or perhaps something very complex. Then you think to yourself, how did it come about? Well, usually someone, somewhere has done it before, and this is how one particular air pistol first struck me.

A friend told me that an acquaintance of his had recently bought an unusual air pistol. We arranged to meet and I ended up buying the pistol — after a lot of haggling. All I could discover about its history was that an elderly lady could remember her husband using the pistol before the War, so if any reader has seen a similar pistol I would be grateful for any information.

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The model illustrated is the Tempest air pistol which, with the classic Webley barrel over cylinder cocking mechanism, stylish lines and rugged construction gives the Tempest the balance and handling characteristics of a real handgun. Other models in the Webley range include the Vulcan air rifle, a full power air rifle and a favourite with many field shooting enthusiasts. The Vulcan air rifle is ideal for target shooting, vermin control or plinking, and is now covered by the Webley Supershield 3 year warranty.



Tempest air pistol illustrated with optional pistol case.

THE FAMOUS NAME IN AIRGUNS.

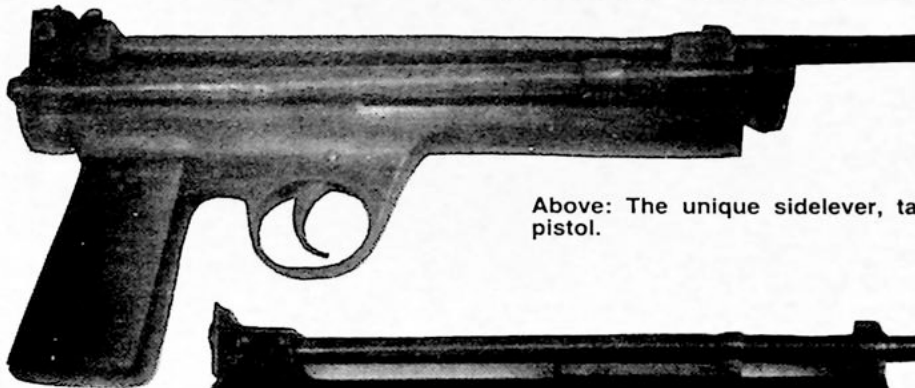
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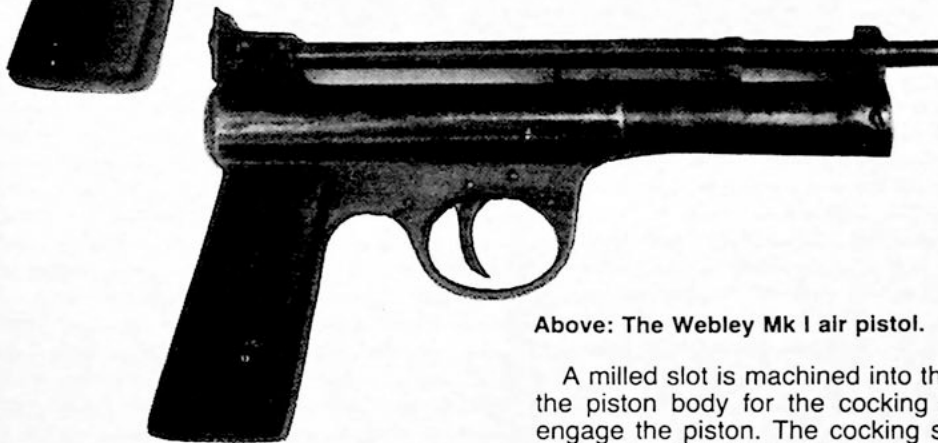
SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 2 lbs 5 oz
Overall length: 10.062 ins
Air chamber length: 8.125 ins
Cocking lever length: 8.5 ins
Piston length: 4.062 ins
Piston diameter: 0.964 ins
Piston working stroke: 3.125 ins
Mainspring length: 7.5 ins
Mainspring diameter: 0.8125 ins
Number of coils: 34
Barrel length: 9.562 ins
Calibre: .177
Velocity: Approximately 375-400 fps
Overall height: 4.875 ins
Number of parts including all screws: 41

The round cocking lever is made of solid steel.



Above: The unique sidelever, tap loading pistol.



Above: The Webley Mk I air pistol.

together with a long spring guide to prevent excess spring distortion. The mainspring is flat sectioned spring steel. The piston is made from solid steel and has two bronze piston rings instead of the traditional leather washer so popular in this type of spring air pistol, and behind these is a groove for seal engagement.

A milled slot is machined into the top of the piston body for the cocking slide to engage the piston. The cocking stroke is quite long, but fairly smooth in operation, and after cocking the sidelever is returned to a spring clip brazed to the side of the air cylinder. Unfortunately, on my pistol this clip is broken.

Inside the end of the air chamber is a round fibre buffer washer to prevent damage if the pistol is fired accidentally without a pellet in the breech. The barrel

runs through a block at the muzzle end, which is brazed onto the top of the air chamber, and on top of the block is a machined bead foresight. The barrel runs along the top of the air chamber and is screwed into another block, similar to the Titan air pistol. Another similarity is that the barrel is in .177 calibre and smooth bored.

On top of the block is the windage adjustable rearsight which is attached by a dovetailed slot. It also has two small locking grub screws through the actual sight to lock it in position. Instead of the usual notched rearsight, this pistol has a ring sight with a large aperture about .125 inches in diameter. Through the top of the block is a screw that blocks off the transfer port, which runs vertically from the air chamber to the breech block.

At the rear of the block is a loading tap, and to open this you pull a small lever on the right-hand side of the block back towards you. You drop the pellets into the rear of the block through a chamfered hole, which aligns the tap with the breech.

The tap is unlike those found on other air weapons as the pellet drops all the way into the breech instead of being retained in a slightly tapered hole. The tap is then closed to seal the breech end of the barrel. On the left-hand side of the breech block a small, spring loaded detent engages in two positions on the loading tap to keep it either open or closed.

The breech block is again brazed in position on top of the air chamber. The chamber is closed at the breech by a large slotted end plug which can be removed to inspect the piston head.

This pistol is easy to use and fairly accurate, despite its smooth bored barrel. The trigger probably helps this as it's quite light and much better than some modern air pistols I have used. The power is also very good and, although I have not had it chronographed, it is better than my Webley Mk 1 air pistol. To be fair, though, it does have a larger and longer air chamber. The handling and balance of the pistol are very good and the grips are very comfortable for a straight pistol grip.



The pistol's major components.

For Rooks and Rabbits

*Les Wilson on rifles
from the past
and present*



About 30 years ago rooks were more plentiful than they are today.

I HAVE ALWAYS been very lucky. I have been interested in guns and rifles from as far back as I can remember. I went to school in a small village where most of my schoolfellows were used to guns being in the home, and learning to shoot was as natural to me as learning to ride a bicycle.

Since leaving school, very many years ago, I have always earned my living with guns of all types in various professions connected with shooting sports. This has resulted in me being able to build up quite a collection of weapons which is forever changing as I sell one gun and replace it with a better or more unusual model. But always the gun room gets more and more congested until I am forced to be firm with myself and have a good clear out — usually to make room for more guns!

Whenever this drastic step needs to be taken there are always some guns or rifles with which I cannot bear to part, usually for some quite uneconomic personal reason. One such rifle, for which I am always being offered increasing sums of money by friends and other gun dealers, is a delightful little rook and rabbit cartridge rifle which I inherited over 30 years ago. It had hardly been used then and even now it is still in 'as new' condition.

Rook and rabbit rifles were very popular at the end of the last century and the

beginning of this, and were specially built small calibre rifles designed to be used by sportsmen for the sport of rook shooting. This took place for about one week only, around May 12th, and was an essential agricultural occasion. It happened every year in the same way as did harvest, ploughing, hedging and ditching.

In those days, rooks were more plentiful than they are today, and every village, however small, boasted at least one rookery. At that time, the rook was considered to be harmful to agriculture if allowed to multiply and the necessary task of thinning out the young birds or 'branchers' as they were called, developed into a sport.

Rook rifles were specially designed and made by most of the well-known London and provincial gunmakers, so that gentlemen and sportsmen could practise their marksmanship during the closed season. These little rifles were usually exquisitely made, as the sportsmen of the day demanded the same precision of craftsmanship and balance in handling for these rifles as they did for their other sporting guns. These rifles were often used for rabbit shooting throughout the year and also for general plinking and target shooting. It is for this reason that they were classified as rook and rabbit rifles.

These rifles were made in a range of calibres from .297/.230 right up to .380 no. 2. Most of the cartridges were specially developed for the specific purpose of rook and rabbit shooting — the requirements being for a fairly heavy bullet fired at a relatively low velocity. The low velocity gave the restricted range required for shooting in confined spaces like village centres and large gardens.

The special design of the cartridge also meant that usually they could only be purchased from the gunmaker who supplied the rifle, thus ensuring continued custom. The barrels were all precision rifled and were of heavy construction with low, very efficient open sights, comprising a shallow 'V', usually folding leaf, rearsight and a very fine silver, ivory or platinum tipped foresight.

My own rook and rabbit rifle was made about 1910 by the famous Nottinghamshire gunmaker, C. Smith & Sons of Newark on Trent. It is a sidelever opening hammer ejector rifle chambered for the .297/.230 cartridge. This cartridge was the forerunner of the modern .22 rimfire and was a little bottle-necked brass cased cartridge which came in two lengths, short and long. The former for use up to 100 yards, the latter up to 200 yards.

Both cartridges were loaded with a 37



The rook and rabbit
rifle by C. Smith &
Sons of Newark.

The completed pneumatic reservoir rifle.

grain, usually hollow point lead bullet and the short cartridge had a muzzle velocity of 875 fps which gave the rifle a muzzle energy of 63.92 ft lbs — over five times the current British legal limit for air rifles. The barrel of my rifle is hexagonal in section, the top flat file cut to eliminate any reflections. Its little low rearsight has a fixed leaf for 100 yards and two folding leaves for 150 and 200 yards. The long, low, very elegant foresight has a very fine bead profile tipped with silver. The wide 'V' of the inlay in the rearsight notch also has a very fine silver central wire to enable the foresight to be aligned perfectly.

Although I still use a number of my air rifles for rabbit and vermin shooting, I always try to restrict my range to 20-25 yards, to ensure clean kills. But on warm summer evenings I still delight in walking round the shoot with my rook rifle, which I find does deadly work when the rabbits have got a little shy of the air rifle. I find the open sights ensure clean kills at up to 80 or so yards, a range far beyond the capability of any airgun — or so I thought.

I don't shoot the little rifle a great deal now, firing only four or five shots on each outing, so a box of 100 cartridges will last me a year or so. Six months ago, I noticed that I was down to my last 30 cartridges and when I searched the ammunition locker I was dismayed to find no more in store.

I must have spent a fortune on phone calls to possible sources of cartridges and I visited most shops in the area, all to no avail. They had not been manufactured since just after the last War and it appeared that all stocks had now dried up.

I was left with several choices. I could have the rifle sleeved or tubed to take the readily available .22 long rifle cartridge. I could have the barrel bored out and chambered for the .410 shotgun cartridge — which popular conversion I always feel is a very sorry fate for such beautiful little rifles of obsolete calibres — or I could retain the rifle in its present state in semi-retirement, using existing cartridge stocks carefully and hope that some would become available at some future date. It was the last choice that I made rather sadly, and I took up a modern .22 cartridge rifle with a telescopic sight to use for long range rabbit control.

Although I was reasonably successful with the modern rifle, my summer evening forays seemed to have lost some of their pleasure. I was still shooting rabbits at up to 80 yards and beyond but somehow I did not experience the same sense of achievement that I had done when using the old rook rifle with its beautiful open sights. It was the same feeling you get in driving a modern car after a vintage Bentley.

I had been reading *Airgun World* and noticed that several specialist companies were able to increase the muzzle energy output of air rifles to over 30 or so ft lbs, which was almost halfway towards the just over the 60 ft lbs muzzle energy of the rook rifle. This gave me an idea. Would it not be possible to make an air rifle with the same ballistic characteristics as the .297/.230

rook rifle cartridge? If so, then I could still enjoy the skill of shooting a heavyweight, slow velocity bullet, using open sights.

I explained my problem to several friends in the gun trade, most of whom thought I was mad. However, I remembered one gunsmith who specialised in building custom made air rifles and pistols with either single or multi-stroke pneumatic actions, or operated from a pre-charged reservoir.

When I outlined my specification to him, he could see no problems at all. He even remembered seeing some very heavy .22 calibre hollow nose bullets for sale at the last Game Fair which, although smaller than my specified calibre, were the same weight of 37 grains.

For convenience of parts and due to the availability of suitable bullets, we decided to design a special rifle in .22 calibre.

The prime consideration was accuracy. This could only be achieved with a good quality barrel and a very consistent power output. Our choice for the first criterion was a BSA Martini barrel from an old lightweight target rifle. The rifling was deeply cut with good, square grooves and was of a similar pitch to the rook rifle — one turn in 12 inches.

A NEW DESIGN

Rifling in modern air rifle barrels is, by design, much shallower and of a slower pitch, as air rifles use a softer, lighter pellet at a much lower energy level. To increase the velocity of a modern air rifle to give the high energy level which we were trying to achieve would result in great inaccuracy, as the lead pellet would be unable to grip the shallow rifling sufficiently to gain any gyroscopic spin.

BSA are famous throughout the world for the high quality of their rifle barrels, and so they should be. After all they have been making barrels longer than anyone else in Britain. The barrel that we were using was from a worn out target rifle but all the wear had occurred at the chamber end, which we cut off and discarded anyway. The rest of the barrel was as good and crisp as the day it was made.

It was agreed that my gunsmith friend would design and make a compressed air reservoir for my rifle and he got busy on his drawing board with his engineering manuals and calculator. At this stage, I thought it best to leave my friend alone with his development work, which proved to be the right action to take.

A phone call, a week or so later, sent me hurrying to my friend's workshop. He had finished the prototype rifle, but he was short of a suitable secondhand stock. I had these in plentiful supply, so I loaded several into the back of the car before setting out.

The finished metalwork looked simplicity itself. Most precision made, efficient

designs look very simple, and it is usually the highly complex looking designs which prove to be the least efficient. The barrel was the same length as my rook rifle, with the same length sight base. A BSA ramp had been fitted to the muzzle end and the standard bead element had been reduced to a very fine bead to match the rook rifle. A three leaf folding rearsight was fitted to the bridge holding the barrel to the reservoir, which was situated under the barrel, following the design of modern pump-up air rifles.

A modified action, with seating bolt, also similar to current pneumatic models, had been fitted, as had my friend's own design of trigger mechanism.

I fired several groups for accuracy from the test bench and was pleased to see consistent $\frac{3}{4}$ inch groups at 50 yards — comparable to the rook rifle's performance. I did find the rifle very difficult to load and found out why the rifle was so accurate. Each bullet was seated well into the deeply cut rifling in the barrel by the bolt, which ensured a perfectly air-tight fit. The bullets, incidentally, had all first been lubricated with a colloidal graphite compound.

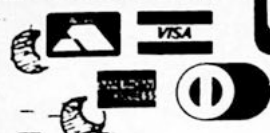
We tried several secondhand stocks for size and found that one from a BSA Sportsman Five .22 rifle was an almost perfect fit. A few brief touches with a chisel and a few breaths with a file and the stock was fitted. The prototype rifle was ready for field testing.

The reservoir had been designed to operate with a working pressure of 2,250 lbs per square inch. From the size of reservoir fitted, I could get 20 shots between recharges at a constant 875 fps. The completed prototype rifle weighed 6 lbs, 1 lb heavier than the rook rifle, but it was surprisingly well balanced and the extra weight was hardly noticeable.

I decided to sacrifice a few precious rounds of rook rifle ammunition to compare the point of impact of the two rifles at 80 yards. They both performed identically, with the same satisfying delay from the report of the rifle to hearing the strike of the heavy bullet on the target. The new rifle had one added advantage in that it was completely recoilless in operation. Even though the recoil of the rook rifle was negligible, I found the pneumatic a sweeter rifle to shoot. The only thing that it lacked was the lingering aroma of nitro powder.

I can now continue to indulge myself for many years to come — and when I can afford it, I will have the pneumatic rifle professionally stocked to give it the same handling qualities as the rifle it has been made to replace.

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Tasco 3-9x50 AG £110

Tasco 4x40 AG £80

Kassnar PA 4x32 £68

Kassnar PA 4x40 £81

Kassar PA 2-7x32 £87

Kassnar PA 3-9x40 £193

Lisenfeld 6x42 £117

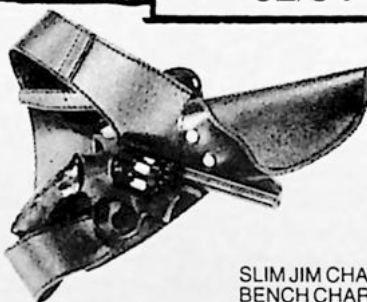
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The shooter is well concealed and so is the gun, but what about the hands?

IN last month's issue, I wrote about the use of binoculars or a good scope for hunting. I also advised reading some books on British wildlife from your local library, and described how you can move through any woodland silently and unobserved by most of the wildlife who live in or use the woodland as a habitat. I also stressed the importance of being able to identify the various animals and birds and of learning their habits and lifestyle.

Only when you have become a part of this environment by living in it for many hours of the day will you become a successful predator yourself. Only now can you start thinking about taking your gun with you.

Our main quarry are rabbits, woodpigeon, grey squirrels and collared doves, which are a pest in some areas. At certain times of the year, the gamekeeper or landowner may ask you to cull carrion crows, magpies or jays, but for the moment let's concentrate on the various vermin you can eat. This also serves a sensible double purpose as it fills our stomachs with fresh protein uncontaminated by preservatives, while making a small dent in the population of vermin that damage our crops and trees.

Your still and silent vigils will have revealed where the colonies of grey squirrels live and where their stores are. You will also have noticed the terrible damage squirrels can cause to trees by stripping the bark until the tree dies. The grey 'tree rat' as it is often called is a relatively new species, coming originally from the USA. It started life in this country by escaping from cages at the Duke of Bedford's estate and has practically ousted our own native red squirrel from the English countryside.

It's skill that kills

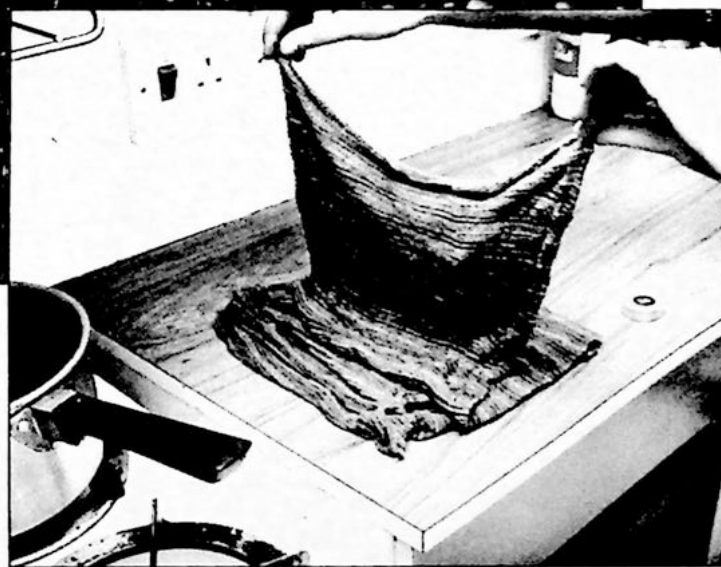
Colin Hope
concludes his look at fieldcraft techniques

Children's television portrays the squirrel as a cuddly little 'fluffytail' but you should have no qualms about shooting them — they are pests of the highest order! Head and chest shots at 60 ft with a rifle producing 10-12 ft lbs at the muzzle will despatch them instantly.

Woodpigeon manage to eat their own weight in food each day. They like to eat peas, wheat, fruit, Brussels sprouts and other human foods, and consequently pigeon meat is full of lean, protein-filled goodness.

Practice will have taught you where pigeon roost during the day to rest and digest the contents of their bulging crop. Once they have found a safe resting place they will return to it daily. When you have found these spots you are halfway towards making pigeon pie.

Even in the summer, when the trees are covered with leaves and it seems impossible to spot them, pigeon can still be located with patience. They will always select a spot where they can see the ground below. You may only be able to see



Cheesecloth is ideal for concealing your rifle.

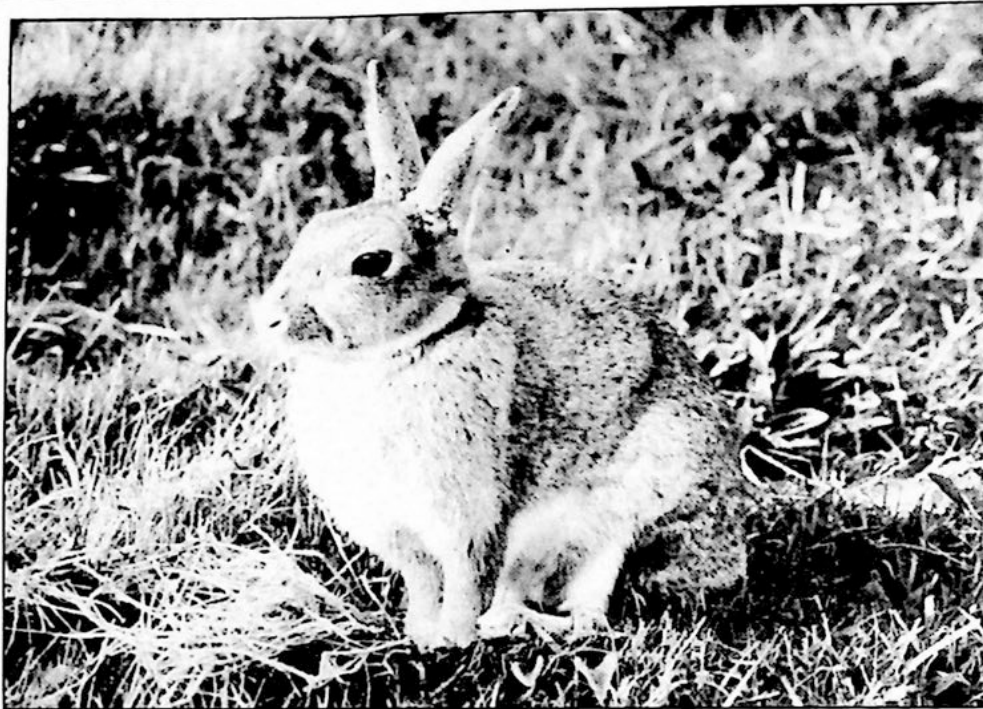
the head and neck at first, but if you move carefully around the tree you can usually find a spot where the breast is exposed for the easier shot.

Despite being aware of your presence, pigeon will often be reluctant to move until you point a gun at them! In a split second they will drop out of the roost and literally fall part way to the ground, placing the tree trunk between you and them. Using their amazing wing power, they will accelerate, fly low and weave between trees and bushes until safely out of range. This is why your rifle must not look like a rifle — but more of this later.

If there are crops growing at the edge of the wood, then it's a good idea to place some decoys out on the field and conceal yourself a short distance into the wood. Birds landing among the decoys within range can be taken as they settle down to feed and you can shoot the suspicious ones who prefer to settle in adjacent trees while they are deciding whether your decoys are real or not!

Rabbits like to eat vegetables as well as grass, and are notorious pilferers of crops. The dreaded virus myxomatosis was introduced in the late 1950s with the result that 90 per cent of rabbits were wiped out.

continued on page 38



Rabbits have very acute hearing and need skilful stalking.

They have made a comeback, but the disease is still prevalent. It is harmless to humans, and rabbits that show signs having recovered from the disease are safe to eat. Scabs and spots with little hair growth are the signs that a rabbit has overcome this terrible affliction.

Despite the government's subsidised ammunition and the willingness of farmers to let almost anyone shoot their land for rabbits — with a resulting rabbit industry that provided cheap meat for much of the population — the rabbit population could not be controlled in the pot. Despite this I feel that those who deliberately introduced the disease have much to answer for. It was the cruellest possible 'solution' to the problem.

Rabbit burrows are often situated at

woodland edges adjoining grazing land. Dawn and dusk shooting over the meadowland from the comfort of a woodland hide is a great way of getting rabbit stew for dinner. Your previous vigilance will have revealed that rabbits use woodland runs — and that stoats and weasels use the same paths.

Lying in wait within range of these runs will provide some easy shooting as 'Brer' stops to sniff the air. Rabbits can be shot at 90-100 feet, with head shots to ensure clean first time kills. However, as your skill as a hunter increases, you will be able to approach almost within touching distance.

Unless you are fortunate in having dark skin, your hands and face must be covered and your clothing should be dark and made of rustle-free material. Camo Stick from Sharpshooters is a good face paint and saves having to wear a mask in hot weather.

There are several ways to camouflage your rifle. Leaf-covered twigs can simply be held in place with elastic bands, for example, but by far the best form of camouflage is to make up a sock for the whole gun from scrim or any light open weaved fabric such as stockinette dyed green or brown — or both.

'Dylon' dyes are ideal and easy to use. Stockinette costs about 70p for a 2 metre roll, although cheesecloth and mutton cloth are also ideal and a kindly butcher may give you a length for nothing.

Stockinette comes in a tube, making it easy to slip over the rifle. Slots for the scope can be cut with a sharp knife — one at each end to expose the lenses — and leaves can easily be threaded into the weave for absolute concealment. Of course you must dye the cloth first — and here is the process I use.

First wash and thoroughly rinse the stockinette. Then add some dark green dye to some water in an old saucepan. Dye the stockinette in the saucepan by simmering it in hot water for 15 minutes. Then remove the stockinette, thoroughly rinse it and allow to dry. Now tip away the green dye and heat to simmering point some dark brown dye. Fold the stockinette into a pad 12 inches square, zig-zag fashion, and

lower only half the pad into the dye. Hold it there for 10 minutes. Take out the stockinette, wash and thoroughly dry it and you now have a camouflaged gun stocking.

The stocking can be cut to fit the rifle. Cut a slot for side or underlevers and leave the stocking baggy at the breech of break action rifles. Elastic bands, dark string or leather thongs will secure the stocking to the gun.

A quick and cheap alternative is to cut off one leg of a pair of ladies dark tights! Although not so effective as stockinette, it will disguise the rifle.

As promised, here are three simple recipes which are ideal for pigeon and rabbits.

Braised Pigeon Breasts

Cut off the wings and pluck the breast. Open the breast with a sharp knife and remove them with your fingers hooked behind the wishbone. Rinse and wrap each breast in a rasher of bacon. Then place the breasts in a shallow casserole dish with diced onions and a knob of butter, and sprinkle them with black pepper. Cover and place in a medium oven for 30 minutes.

Make a stock from chicken Oxo, red wine — equal amounts — a spoonful of flour, a small crushed garlic clove and a sprig of crushed parsley. Gently simmer the stock for five minutes and then add some fresh mushrooms. Remove the breasts from the oven, add the stock, and replace in the oven for 10 minutes. Delicious!

Rabbit Stew

Thoroughly clean and wash the rabbit after paunching and skinning it. Lay the rabbit in a bowl of salted water with half a pint of strong vinegar and leave it overnight. Remove the legs and place all the meat into a large saucepan or pressure cooker. Add Oxo beef stock, a packet of country vegetable soup, carrots, a large spoonful of strong English mustard, a tin of beef soup and a pint of water.

Cook in a pressure cooker for 30 minutes or simmer for one hour, stirring occasionally.

Squirrel with brown dumplings

This is my favourite squirrel recipe by Fred J. Taylor. First, slice the meat into fairly thin portions and fry in shallow fat until brown. Then remove the meat and place it in a deep baking dish. Fry some diced carrots, onions and celery to taste. Dust with flour and continue cooking until the flour browns. Remove the pan from the heat, stir in boiling stock made from chicken Oxo, and season. Now pour the thickened stock over the meat portions and bring back to boiling point.

Make the dumpling mix with self-raising flour, salt, lard or white fat — 4 oz of fat to 1 lb of flour — and enough water to make a stiff dough. Mould the dumplings and put them into the boiling stock and immerse them. Put the dish in a moderate oven and leave off the lid. Cook slowly until the meat is tender and the dumplings are crisp and brown. Submerging them completely ensures a crisp, brown finish and improves their taste.

ENTRY FORM

Now, as promised, here is my quiz which will earn you a No 1 issue of *Airgun World* (August 1977) — one of the first 50 copies off the press. Just tick the boxes below, or send in your entry — neatly written — on a sheet of paper, to **No 1 Competition, *Airgun World*, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berks, SL4 1BG.** Closing date is **Friday, May 16th.**

1 What is the estimated grey squirrel population in the UK? 2.3 million ☐
4.7 million ☐ 15 million ☐

2 Brema air rifles are made in? Italy ☐
Spain ☐ Japan ☐

3 Which air rifle uses an inert gas as the power source? Galway Fieldmaster ☐
Ensign Carbine ☐ Theoben Sirocco ☐

4 At normal airgun ranges, which calibre pellet possesses the flattest trajectory for the same muzzle energy? .177 ☐ .20 ☐ .22 ☐ .25 ☐

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

SUCCESS SPEAKS for itself. Just look at the superb Venom Varminter featured in this month's colour pull-out and you can see that it has been designed with a precise purpose in mind. It is a shooting machine with clean, elegant lines that combine aesthetic beauty with exceptional practicality in the field and on the ranges. As with a Porsche car or BMW motorbike, it is no coincidence that a machine which performs superbly also looks 'right'.

The Varminter models from Venom Arms have an interesting history. First unveiled to the British airgunning public in November 1982, the Varminter was the result of one man's dream to own a true thumbhole stocked hunting air weapon. That man was none other than Ivan Hancock, who now with Dave Pope runs Venom Arms, one of the country's leading air weapons companies.

'The Varminter idea started in 1980 when I wanted a true thumbhole stocked hunting rifle', Ivan recalls. 'Apart from Weihrauch, who made a thumbhole version of their popular HW35, which was too "universal"

for my liking, there was nothing else available'. Ivan can never resist a challenge, so he set about making a thumbhole stock to his own exacting design standards — resulting in the first Varminter.

'I called it the Varminter because the American word for vermin is varmints', Ivan says. 'At first, the general public were a little reserved about the new stock design and some of the technical features, but as their confidence grew, so did sales. Since then, we haven't looked back'.

Both Ivan and Dave have proved to be pioneers in airgun research and development and haven't rested on their laurels when it comes to improving the Varminter range. Each year, various technical and cosmetic changes have been made to incorporate many of the ideas and other feedback Venom receive from their customers. They also try a few ideas of their own, to give you a rifle that is now regarded by many as the state of the art in modern air rifles.

The Varminter is now in its fourth design stage since its inception in 1982. The latest thumbhole stock has been carefully designed with a higher cheekpiece that extends further back, making it more versatile and allowing all shooters to find the correct head position. The recoil pad is fully adjustable sideways and in height to suit all shooting physiques. This combination of absolute control ensures good, clean trigger technique and shooter comfort that is second to none.

Research, combined with Venom's quest for constant technical improvement, have led to a host of other design changes. Each

AIRGUN WORLD

PULL-OUT Venom Varminter

Venom's latest
HW77 Varminter.

*Top of the
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Varminter receives the renowned Venom 'magic' to give you a smooth, quiet, virtually recoil-free action and constant up-to-the-limit power. Just like top shotgun manufacturers, Venom also pride themselves on the amount of hand finishing every rifle receives, to give you a product to be proud of.

This month's colour pull-out features the Venom Varminter HW77K, a rifle that, in the right hands, will give unlimited success in the field and on the ranges. But it's the attention to detail and technical improvements that make the Varminter one of the most sought-after weapons by both hunters and field target shooters alike.

Each year Venom incorporate new ideas into their rifles.

As you can see from our colour pull-out, the Varminter is buzzing with a host of extras designed to help you get the most from your shooting. Venom have incorporated one of their special steel silencers and lever catches, which double as a muzzle weight to reduce flip and provide

Also new

better balance. featured is Venom's cocking grip which is already proving a boon with Weihrauch underlever owners, with its knurled grip assisting cocking, especially on wet days.

The Varminter's trigger is enhanced by one of Venom's new, specially contoured trigger shoes for precise trigger control and feel. On top is one of the new generation scopes made specially for Venom, which have found immediate success with field target shooters. Venom now offer shooters a choice of three different scopes, all parallax adjustable, with a new 2-7 x 32 model joining the stable later this year.

Keeping the scope in place on the Varminter is another Venom exclusive — their specially designed one-piece mounts. Made by Sportsmatch to Venom's own design, the mounts are primarily designed for Weihrauch rifles with eight Allen headed screws to ensure complete rigidity and a built-in recoil stud that makes scope creep a thing of the past.

The Varminter is now at the peak of design excellence. New ideas and advanced technology have ensured that the Varminter remains a winner. Already, Ivan and Dave are looking at producing a special Varminter action designed for field target shooting and like so many other Venom products, you can be sure that it will represent the very best in design and construction money can buy.

As Ivan is proud to point out, 'When you buy a Varminter, you are buying a product that has stood the test of time and has been continually modified to satisfy the demands of the modern air weapons enthusiast'.

We agree with that, and so do hundreds of satisfied Venom owners who have made the Varminter name a legend.





**AIRGUN
WORLD**

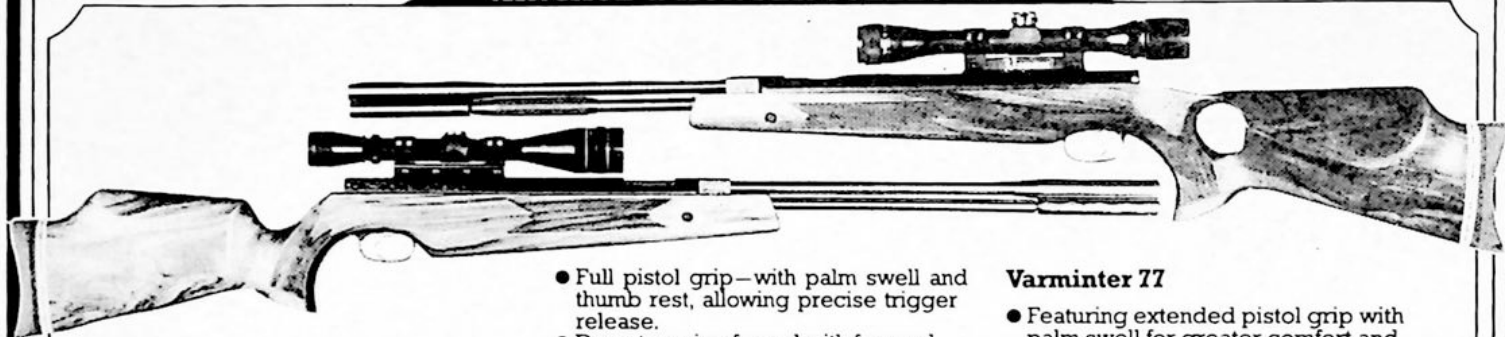
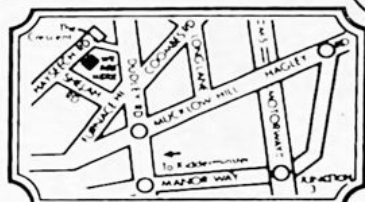
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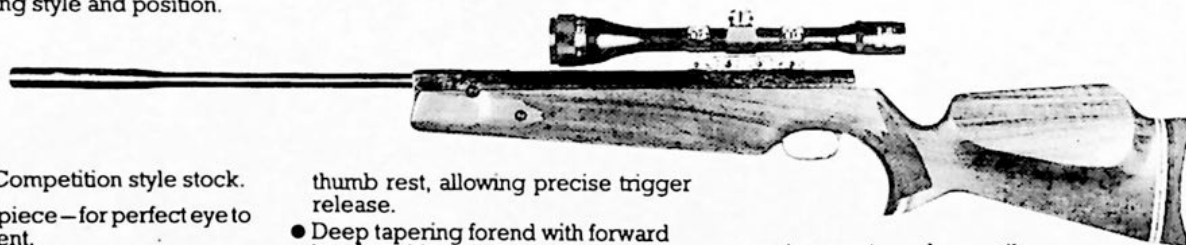
- Full pistol grip—with palm swell and thumb rest, allowing precise trigger release.
- Deep tapering forend with forward hand position—essential for standing shots.
- Venom tuned HW77 action completed the combination to make the Vantage the most accurate and versatile system on offer to the serious airgunner.

Price 77 Vantage £285.00

Varminter 77

- Featuring extended pistol grip with palm swell for greater comfort and trigger control.
- New High Comb for better eye to scope alignment.
- Adjustable recoil pad for correct fitting to each individual.
- New Cocking lever grip (HW77) £5.00.

Price—£285.00 Varminter 77



VANTAGE 80

- Monte Carlo Competition style stock.
- Raised cheek piece—for perfect eye to scope alignment.
- Adjustable butt plate—fully variable to suit any shooting style and position.
- Full pistol grip—with palm swell and

thumb rest, allowing precise trigger release.

- Deep tapering forend with forward hand position—essential for standing shots.
- Venom tuned HW77 action completes the combination to make the Vantage the

most accurate and versatile system on offer to the serious airgunner.

Price 80 Vantage £265.00



VARMINTER 80

- Featuring extended pistol grip with palm swell for greater comfort and trigger control.
- New High Comb for better eye to scope alignment.

- Adjustable recoil pad for correct fitting to each individual.
- New Cocking lever grip (HW77) £5.00.

Price—£265.00 Varminter

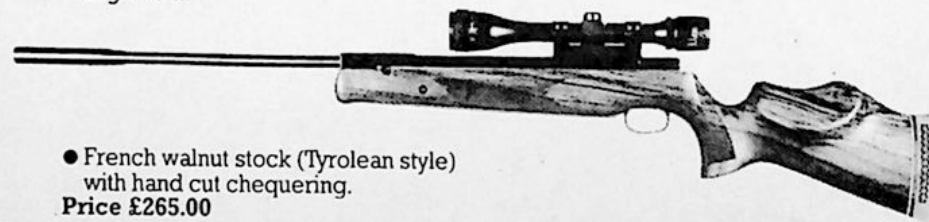
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Available .177 and .22

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- Venom tuned action—sling swivels.

- French walnut stock (Tyrolean style) with hand cut chequering.

Price £265.00



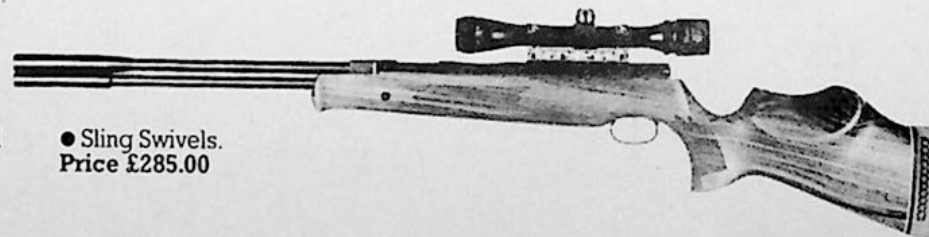
VENOM HW77 HUNTER

Available .177 and .22

- Features 14½" barrel—Venom steel silencer with integral lever catch.
- Venom tuned action.
- French walnut stock with hand-cut chequering.

- Sling Swivels.

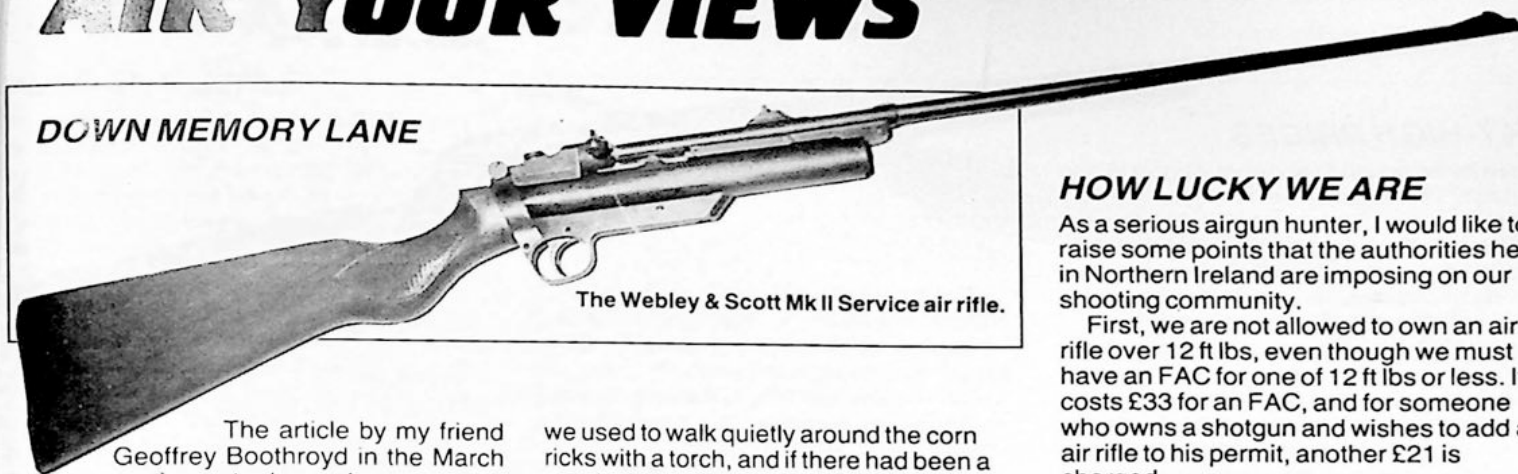
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DOWN MEMORY LANE



The Webley & Scott Mk II Service air rifle.

The article by my friend Geoffrey Boothroyd in the March issue took me down memory lane. I bought a Webley & Scott Mk II Service air rifle in 1933 as soon as they were advertised, and remember well its three barrels in .177, .22 and .25 calibre. The leaf spring barrel latch was as Geoffrey describes — positive, but difficult to press out of its catch. There was a safety sear which held the piston from being released until the barrel was safely home and closed. The trigger pulls were heavy, due to the fact that the sear nose mated directly into the bent, and the bent was actually a groove cut in the piston outer wall. The piston had copper rings — no nonsense about leather washers!

I was working in North Lincolnshire at the time, and remember going into the local ironmongers shop on a Monday morning. There I placed my order and parted my hard-earned pennies — £4 10s for the air rifle, plus an extra £3 for the two spare barrels, including canvas cases.

I waited in the shop until the letter was written. I had no intention that anyone should put their hands on my air rifle, so I made them promise that they would hold the parcel, unopened, until I came into the shop. I was there on the dot of 9 a.m. on the Wednesday — and so was the parcel. To open this and then go behind the iron foundry at the rear of the premises with the rifle was a never-to-be-forgotten experience for me. I was also given, or begged, a tin of Webley & Scott pellets for each calibre.

I was working on a farm at the time where there were ample opportunities to shoot rats and other small vermin. In the winter

we used to walk quietly around the corn ricks with a torch, and if there had been a good rain the rats would sit at the end of their runs under the edge of the thatch, drinking the drops of water running off the ends of the straws.

My rifle had the two leaf sights, although I rarely used the higher one as I preferred to hold high instead. In those days my eyesight was good enough to see the pellet in flight, and many a time I could see the pellet whizzing past a sparrow as it sat on the farmbuilding roofs. Then you had to hold the rifle higher or lower to compensate.

The sparrows were a pest in those days, as we had many pigs and cattle, and we were encouraged to keep the population down. Our only instructions were that if we winged a bird we picked it up and killed it humanely before carrying on shooting.

We also used to throw empty shoe polish tins into the sky for each other to shoot at. The tin thrower stood close behind the shooter and gently lobbed up the tin in an arc to a point about 30-40 feet above and in front of the muzzles. We also used washers and, if we could get an adult to throw up a penny so much the better. Obviously we were careful to wear eye protection against ricochets, and made sure the fall out area for the fired pellets was in a safe place.

I kept my Webley Service until 1946 and, as Geoffrey writes, they were indeed scarce and difficult to get at that time. I had no real use for it then, so I sold it complete with the three barrels for about £15 which, to be frank, I thought was extortionate.

My thanks to Geoffrey Boothroyd for an interesting and factual article.

Chris Cradock,
Bath, Avon.

HOW LUCKY WE ARE

As a serious airgun hunter, I would like to raise some points that the authorities here in Northern Ireland are imposing on our shooting community.

First, we are not allowed to own an air rifle over 12 ft lbs, even though we must have an FAC for one of 12 ft lbs or less. It costs £33 for an FAC, and for someone who owns a shotgun and wishes to add an air rifle to his permit, another £21 is charged.

Nato bullets are not allowed to be used, and gunshops cannot sell them. Sabo bullets are also under review, and my local gun dealer has been approached by the authorities on the sale of the Ox mainspring.

Shotgunners who have been shooting most of their lives on land they already have written permission to shoot on with a shotgun, are being requested to obtain written permission from three or four more farmers when they apply for an air rifle.

I am a past member of the BASC but no longer support this organisation. This is for the simple reason that nothing has been done for the ordinary shooting man in Northern Ireland, as the authorities make up their own new laws and impose them. Perhaps by highlighting these points shooters in Britain will realise how lucky they are.

'Hunter',
Northern Ireland.

The Editor comments:

I am aware that the whole 'gun' question is problematic in Northern Ireland, but I did not realise the scale of the problem. I'd be interested to hear comments from any interested parties.

JOIN THE BASC

As a keen shooter, I must urge all airgunners to join the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. The BASC stands up for the shooting man in Parliament and with our support can fight off such things as the bad publicity the new Lee Enfield airgun is getting at the moment.

Shooting of all sorts is under a constant threat of being banned altogether — make no mistake about that — but we airgunners are a big and ever-growing body of people so we can really do something about this threat.

I am 16 years old and about to leave school, so if I can save £5 to join the BASC as a junior member then I am sure other airgunners can do the same.

M. Musson,
Melton Mowbray, Leics.

RECOGNISE AIRGUNNERS

I was horrified to read an article in a national newspaper dated February 17th about a young boy who was shot with an airgun. I feel this is becoming an all too common occurrence.

I have been chairman of an airgun club for the past seven years and have never witnessed a single accident. I would like to point out, however, that if local councils recognised airgunning as a sport and set aside areas where airgunning could be practised safely in a controlled environment — and under the correct supervision of already existing clubs — then perhaps the number of accidents involving airguns would fall dramatically.

James Kerr,
Coatbridge, Scotland.



Councils should set aside areas for safe airgunning.

Below: The deadly accurate Webley Mk III air rifle.

SKY-HIGH PRICES

I have been an avid reader of *Airgun World* for many years, and I feel I must air my views.

Why has the price of airguns now gone through the roof? I think it's because of the 'tuning up' treatment standard airguns receive from people who are out to make money from the unsuspecting airgunning public.

Standard airguns are of a reasonable price, but the companies which add the many conversions such as fancy stocks are, in my opinion, out to make easy money on the backs of the original manufacturers. And do these modifications make you a better shooter?

Let's face the facts: a standard air rifle or pistol can be improved by what is termed 'tuning' — lubricating and polishing where necessary — and the public can obtain information on this from magazines and books. I agree that it is a personal choice whether you buy a gun with a fancy stock or not, but surely magazines should be out to help the average airgunner, not to swamp him with pricey paraphernalia.

I own a spring powered air rifle and also a pneumatic, namely a Saxby Palmer Ensign Elite. This extraordinary rifle does not lend itself to the fancy modifications because it has been designed to the best possible standards, but only people who have studied pneumatic ballistics will realise this.

The spring air rifle I own is the Webley Vulcan — a sturdy, functional air weapon, which is as powerful and accurate for field target shooting as it is for vermin. The Vulcan needs very little in the way of tuning or maintenance to keep it up to the 12 ft lbs limit.

I once owned a .22 Webley Mk III, claimed by the makers to produce 550 fps. I saved up for this rifle, the price then being £18, and my financial deprivation was amply rewarded when, after sighting-in, I shot unsuspecting crows stone dead at 50 yards. The restricting laws of 12 ft lbs have in fact enabled manufacturers to increase the power of their weapons.

German air weapons are beautifully engineered, including beautifully engineered faults. The barrel lock on the Feinwerkbau, the thumb severing beartrap of the Weihrauch HW77 and the velocity lowering pinched barrel of the Anschütz, for example.

Who needs the expensive items, when standard versions of Webley, BSA and Saxby Palmer air rifles are available?

J. Foster,
Runcorn, Cheshire.

RIGHT COMBINATION

I would like to thank Brian Hogg for replying in the January issue to my letter *Scope Mounts Mystery* in the November issue.

While I do not think that the scope was actually moving within the mounts — although this could have been possible — I believe that the 12 screw mounts were rather too strong and so distorted the telescopic sight.

I have refitted my Apel six screw, two-piece mounts, which are the most beautifully made scope mounts I have seen, and the rifle is now back on target.

Mr Hogg is 100 per cent correct when he says you must obtain the correct gun/sight/mount combination.

John Elt,
Worcester.

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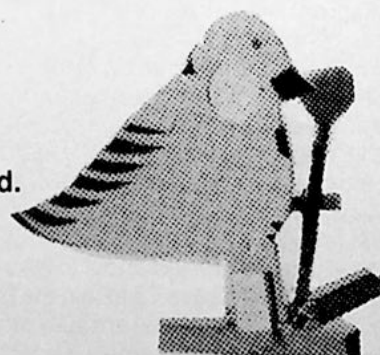
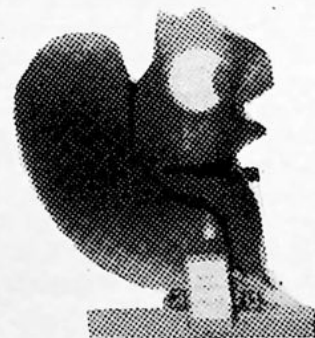
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VULCAN QUERIES

I recently bought a brand new .22 Webley Vulcan air rifle. Could you tell me if it is possible to fit a silencer to this without losing the foresight? Also, if I sent my rifle away for a high-power conversion, what sort of power could I expect?

Finally, what would be the maximum killing range for a head shot to a rabbit, assuming my gun has a muzzle energy of 12 ft lbs?

A. Budden,
Llandelli, Dyfed.

Because of the difficulties created by the method which the foresight is fixed to the barrel on the Webley Vulcan, I suspect there is not a silencer or adaptor available which will leave this foresight in situ.

Send your rifle away for tuning by all means. Provided you choose a reputable and well-established company, you should find a noticeable improvement in all-round performance. However, unless you are in possession of a Firearms Certificate with the appropriate variation, your weapon will not be tuned to exceed the 12 ft lbs legal limit. Bear in mind that in its untuned form, the Webley Vulcan will produce in excess of 11 ft lbs anyway.

Very roughly, a .22 pellet which exits the muzzle containing 12 ft lbs of energy will still have sufficient energy approximately 100 yards later to kill a rabbit with a head shot. As we all know, it is extremely unlikely that this feat could be achieved in practice, and the realistic maximum range for this type of shot is likely to be only one-third of this 100 yards figure. It is nice to know that power is not the problem, but accuracy is.

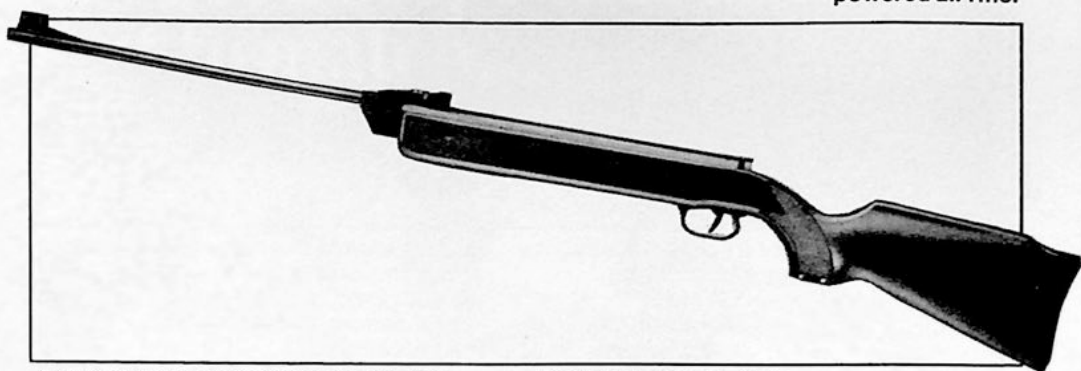
TIGHT OR LOOSE FIT?

As a relative newcomer to the sport of airgunning, could you tell me which gives the higher velocity — a loose fitting pellet or a tight fitting one? I use both Nato bullets and Milbro Caledonian pellets in my .22 Webley Omega. The Nato is very tight, but the Caledonian is loose — yet both seem to give about the same range. Could you recommend a good field pellet?

A. Taylor,
Banbury, Oxon.

As to which pellet is better for your rifle — a loose fitting one or one which fits tightly — the answer is neither. A tight fitting pellet will require too much energy to overcome the resistance of the bore, and a loose fitting one will start to move down the barrel before the optimum point and may allow air to pass. A loose fitting pellet will certainly not make the best use of the weapon's rifling.

Only experimentation will find the pellet which not only suits your weapon, but also fulfils your requirements — which will depend upon the use to which the weapon is put. Start by trying the excellent Beeman Silver Jet and then some pellets from the RWS, H & N and Eley ranges. All of these are quality manufacturers and I am sure you will find one which fits the bill.



A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!

I recently bought my first scope — an ASI Super. As there were no instructions with it I moved the calibrations right out as far as they would go — and found that I couldn't even hit a dustbin at 10 yards! Can you help, please?

H. Swain,
Swansea, Glamorgan.

The windage and elevation adjustments on a telescopic sight allow you to zero a combination finely, which should already be in reasonable alignment. Judging by the magnitude of the problems you seem to be experiencing your rifle barrel and scope are not aligned at all.

There are several areas which could be suspect:

1. Is your barrel parallel with the compression cylinder? Very often break-barrel rifles acquire a definite upward bend as the result of a mishap during the cocking operation.

2. Is the mechanism which retains the barrel in its firing position functioning correctly? Sometimes spring loaded detents develop a fault which can result in the barrel seating in a different position each time.

3. Are you using the correct mounts and are they working properly? Some mounts are designed to compensate for barrel droop — it is important they are fitted the right way round. It is also of obvious importance that the mounts do not creep back along the scope rail and that the scope itself cannot travel inside the rings.

4. There is always the possibility that the scope is faulty.

This is the order in which I would trouble-shoot. I hope it is of some help.

SQUIRREL PIE

I wonder if you could put my mind at rest? Is there such a thing as squirrel pie, as I have never heard of anyone eating squirrel?

R. Baker,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

There certainly is such a thing as squirrel pie — and very tasty it is, too.

My wife roasts the squirrels first, cuts off the largest portions of meat and then cooks these in the pastry. To serve, she adds a sauce made of chopped vegetables, thickened beef stock, redcurrant jelly, tomato puree and a few tablespoons of port.

DIANA SPARES

I have just bought a secondhand .22 Diana Series 70 Model 79 air rifle. Could you tell me its approximate velocity and how much it is worth as it is in excellent condition? Also, is it possible to obtain spares for the Diana and if so, from where?

C. Stark,
Hillingdon, Middx.

The Diana Series 70 Model 79 was manufactured by Messrs Millard Brothers of Motherwell, Lanarkshire, who unfortunately ceased trading a couple of years ago. Consequently you may find some difficulty in obtaining spare parts, but items such as piston washers, barrel washers and mainsprings should be easy enough to locate. This was at best a medium powered weapon and I would suggest that it was used on live quarry only at short to medium ranges — say, a maximum of 25 yards.

A CHOICE OF THREE

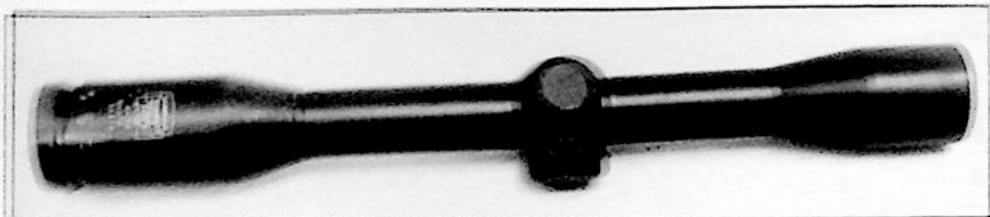
I own three airguns — a Webley Vulcan, BSA Meteor and an Anschutz 335, all in .22 calibre. The Vulcan and Meteor are as good as new, but I prefer the older Anschutz as it has a very light trigger. Could you tell me which of these guns would be the most suitable for shooting rabbits, and at what range? Also, could you recommend a suitable scope for about £60?

Paul Smith,
St Annes, Lancs.

Both the Webley Vulcan and the Anschutz 335 are well suited to shooting live quarry, but the BSA Meteor is normally considered to be rather low powered for this job. It is normally the skill of the shooter, rather than the power of weapons such as the Vulcan or the 335, which restricts range. If you are a beginner I would recommend that you restrict your range to 15-20 yards until you build your skill and confidence.

You will find that if you opt for the Sports Match OP10 one-piece mount, which costs about £17, it will fit most weapons on the market and all scopes with a one inch tube — the vast majority of telescopic sights which do not have integral mounts fitted have a one inch tube. Both Kassnar and Tasco have excellent ranges of telescopic sights and these are my particular favourites. You will not go far wrong if you stick to a 4 × 32 or a 4 × 40 by one of these manufacturers.

The Kassner4x32 scope



I have recently bought a new 22 Webley Air Wolf. Could you suggest a suitable telescopic sight for this, please?

Richard Clayson,
Longhouse Glass.

You don't give me very much to go on regarding how much you have to spend and the type of shooting you wish to do. Accordingly, I can only give you some very general guidelines:

First, choose your scope from the best quality range you can possibly afford, rather than opt for the most comprehensive

Second, unless you know exactly what you are doing, don't choose a fixed power scope of more than four times magnification.

Third, whatever telescopic sight you choose, make sure that you do not cut corners when it comes to buying a mount.

I would say that an excellent scope/mount combination to fit your weapon would be the Kassnar 4x-32 Vistascope, together with the Sports Match TOS two-piece mounts. But at just under \$40, you might feel this is rather a lot to pay.

EXCESSIVE RECOIL

I recently bought a Webley Tempest pistol, which is fine except for a little recoil, so I decided to strip the pistol.

However, once the Tempest was dismantled I noticed that the spring guide tube was wearing unevenly at the tail end. Is this normal and would it add to the recoil which I think is excessive?

Lee Henderson,
Greentown Wind

It is quite normal for spring guide tubes to show uneven signs of wear so I should not worry too much. However, you should find that with correct lubrication any signs of wear would be fairly negligible anyway.

The recoil of your Tempest may be significantly reduced by gently polishing all the major internal components and applying a moly-based grease such as Abbey LT2 as a spring lubricant/damper.

WHICH IS BEST?

Could you tell me if the Waltrauch HW35E was good as the HW77K as a hunting rifle? My friend has an HW77K, which he thinks is more powerful, accurate and robust than the HW35E.

Also, any Sports Match TQ3 mounts and a Mike Bentley 3-3 x 40 scoop suitable for my 25A Auscarist?

William Roberts,
Anglessey, Gwynedd.

The Weibrauch HW77K and the Feinwerbach HW35 Export do have similar limits regarding ultimate power potential. I would suggest that what is more important is that they are both capable of achieving the legal limit of 12 ft/lbs easily and consistently. Judging by field target shooting results, however, it is quite clear that the HW77 has the edge on the HW35E.

I suggest that you take a look at the Weihrauch HW80 and HW90K. This is a much more modern weapon than the 35 series, with performance very similar to that of the HW77. Although it may only be of academic interest to those who do not possess an FAC, the HW80 also has considerably greater potential for ultimate power than the HW77.

The Sports Match TO3 two-piece mounts are, as you suggest, entirely suitable for mounting your Nikko 3-9 x 40 scope on your BSA Airsporter. Should you decide to go one better still, the Sports Match OP12 one-piece mount is specially designed for BSA models.

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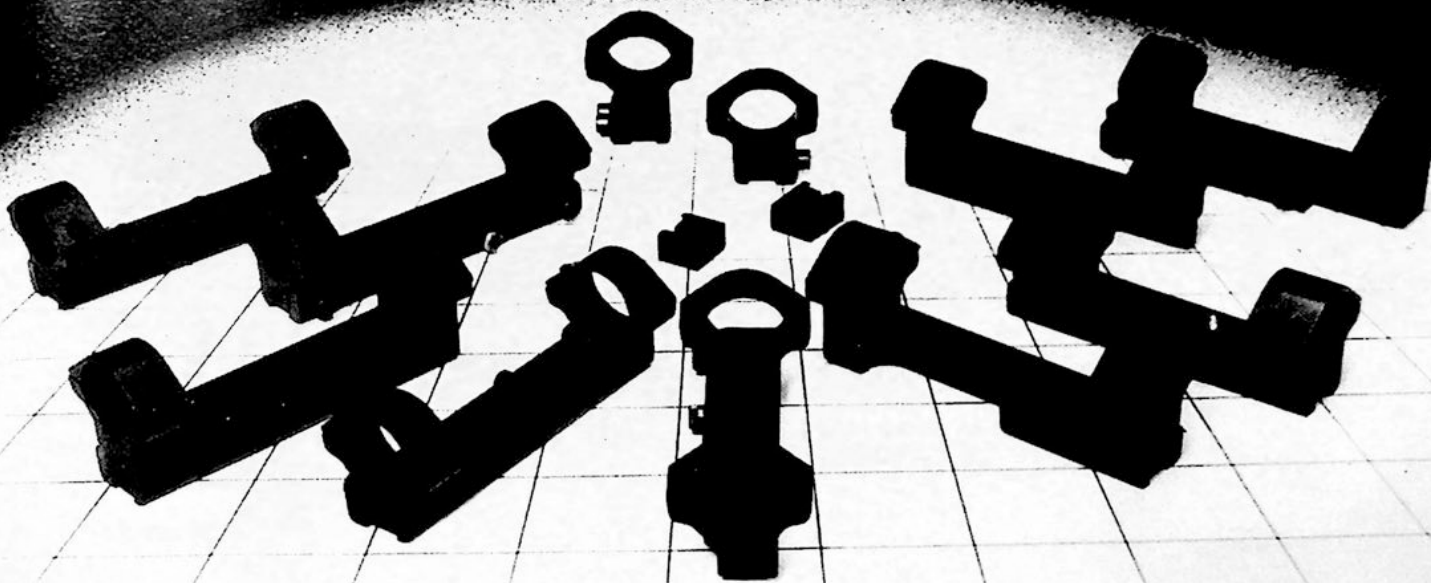
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HOP21 High Sax & P Galaxy
HOP23 High Omega

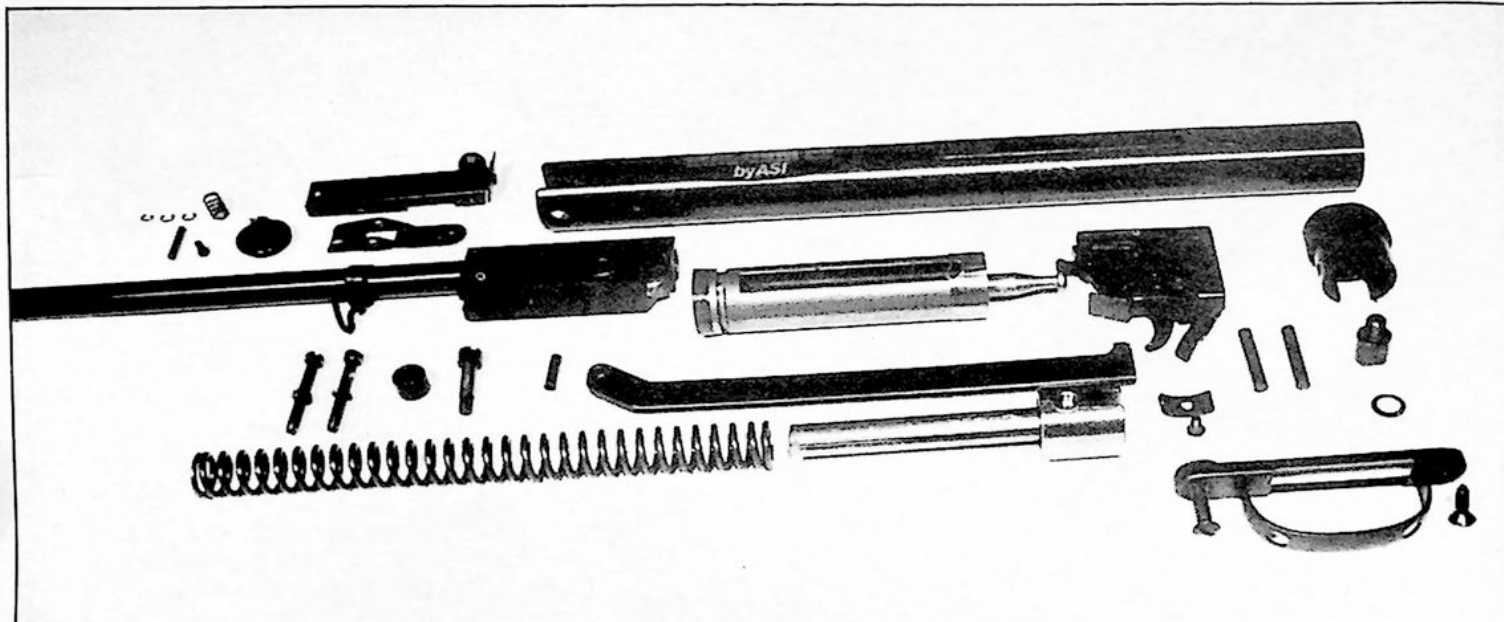
REMEMBER — If the standard mount does not fit efficiently, we make a mount which overcomes the problem.

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STRIPPED FOR



Make sure your work surface is clear when stripping any air rifle.

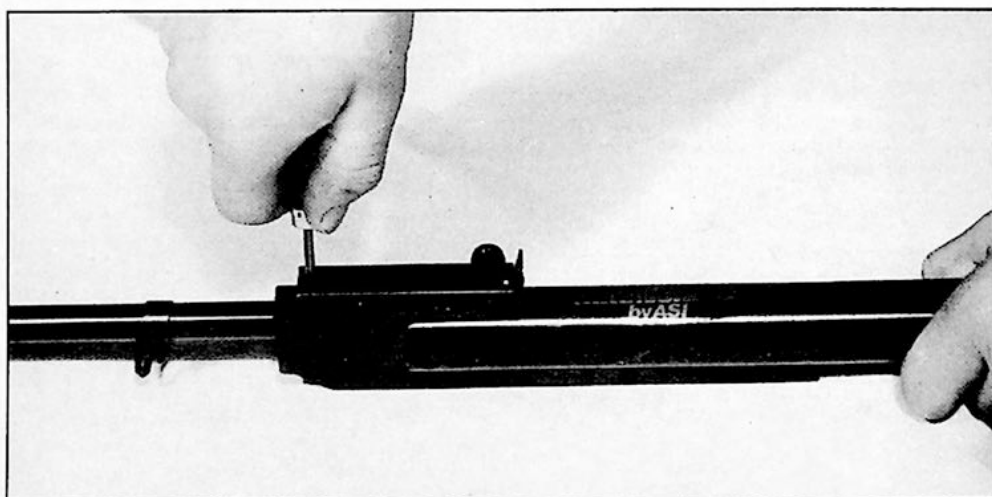
ABOUT TWO YEARS ago Anglo Spanish Imports of Saxmundham, Suffolk, released an entirely new concept of high power air rifle on the British market, which met all the demanding requirements of the serious airgun hunter. The ASI Magnum, which is manufactured in Spain to a very exacting UK specification, really lives up to its name as it is well capable of delivering the maximum power in the hunting field permitted by British legal restrictions.

The Magnum proved to be an instant success and sales were far above expectations. Due to its very attractive price of under £70, the first-time purchaser was able to buy a full sized rifle which had all the special features usually associated with German or British rifles of a much higher price. The Magnum was so well and thoroughly researched during its development that virtually no modifications had to be made since its initial launch. There has been one major improvement in stock design, though, in that the shape of the pistol hand was altered shortly after the rifle's introduction to give a more positive grip and better trigger finger control.

Owners of Magnum air rifles who have been using them for the last year or so will perhaps have noticed a very slight fall-off in performance, which could be due to mainspring or piston washer wear, or drying up of internal lubrication. The DIY airgunner should have no problems in completely stripping his Magnum using standard tools if he is careful to keep to the following procedure.

As with any airgun maintenance, you must ensure that your work surface is clear and uncluttered so that the parts can be arranged in the order in which they are removed from the rifle.

First, check that your rifle is uncocked. Using a 1/4 inch wide screwdriver, remove the two front stock screws and the front



Only remove the rearsight if absolutely necessary.

trigger guard screw. Be careful when you remove the front stock screws to take out the two lock washers from their recesses in the stock. Now move the safe lever at the rear of the trigger to the 'safe' position.

You can now remove the stock from the metal work without the lever fouling the wood of the stock. After removing the metal spacer and front trigger guard bush from their stock recesses, place the stock in a safe place. If these two components are not loose in your stock, leave them in position.

Using a suitably sized drift or punch, tap out the cocking lever axis pin. The cocking lever can now be drawn out of the front of the barrel block and pulled forward so that the rear of the lever can be lifted away from the cylinder slot. Unscrew the barrel axis screw, but take care when removing this component as you will find a thin, steel, shim washer fitted either side of the trigger block to restrict lateral movement. The barrel locking latch and spring can now be withdrawn from their recess in the barrel block.

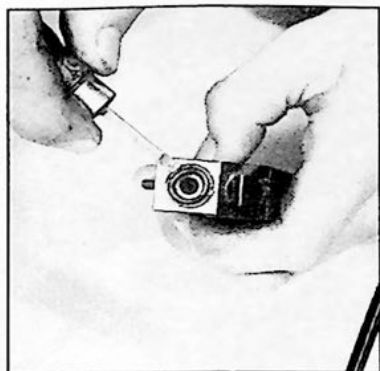
Unless it is absolutely necessary, I don't advise you to remove either the front, or more particularly the rearsight. The front sight is very durable and should not require attention for many years. Likewise, the rearsight is of all steel construction and very well engineered. The element has the choice of four different notch shapes, which are selected and locked by means of a single screw.

If you do need to remove the rearsight for any reason, you must adopt the following procedure. Press the top of the rearsight firmly down with your hand and carefully remove the two circlips from the sight axis pin. Tap out the axis pin while still maintaining pressure on the top of the sight. Using a small bladed screwdriver, unscrew the rearsight base retaining screw and remove the complete sight from the barrel block.

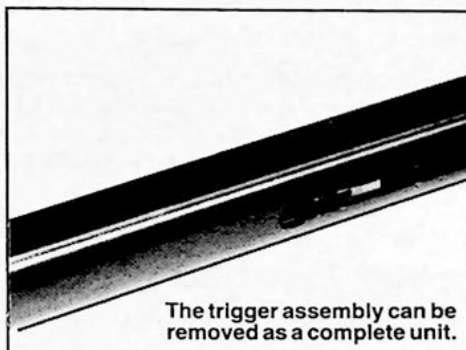
This last action must be carried out with great care as in addition to the main tension spring, there is a small coil spring and plunger which indents into the rearsight bed

ACTION

by Paul Hanson



Above: I always renew the barrel joint sealing washer when servicing an air rifle.



The trigger assembly can be removed as a complete unit.



The ASI Magnum — a well engineered air rifle.

giving positive click adjustment of the elevation screw. A similar, but even smaller, spring and index ball provides click adjustment to the windage screw. If these very small components are lost during stripping, the rearsight will be inoperable.

The Magnum's trigger mechanism is contained within its own unit and can be simply removed for inspection and lubrication by tapping out the two cross pins located above the trigger assembly in the cylinder. By removing the rear-most pin you can withdraw the nylon cylinder end cap.

In order to take out the mainspring and piston assembly, you must first remove the telescopic sight recoil stop or arrestor block, situated on top of the cylinder at the rear of the scope mount grooves. Using a

narrow bladed screwdriver or the special spring retainer which I described in the March issue of *Airgun World*, take up the mainspring tension and carefully unscrew the retaining stud on the underside of the cylinder. Make sure you retain the locking washer under this stud.

The mainspring is under considerable pressure so great care must be taken when you remove the spring retainer from the cocking lever slot. I suggest that you hold a soft cloth over the open end of the cylinder to catch the spring guide and mainspring when the tension is removed.

If required, you can now withdraw the piston assembly from the cylinder so that the washer can be examined. With normal use, it is unlikely that the piston washer will need replacing, but should you wish to do so this is achieved simply by removing one large headed retaining screw.

Your rifle should now be fully stripped and you can examine every part for wear or breakage. Wipe all old grease, dirt and oil from the outside of the piston and apply a small amount of good quality Moly slip grease to the piston washer and the rear bearing surfaces of the piston body. Apply a little of the same grease to the outside of the mainspring which you are going to fit and similarly grease the outside of the spring guide tube.

Hold the front of the cylinder securely in your bench vice, being sure to pad the vice jaws with lead or soft wood pads to prevent damage to the cylinder finish. Do not crush the cylinder by over-tightening the vice jaws. Insert the piston, mainspring and spring guide in that order.

With the larger threaded hole in the spring guide block in line with the cocking lever slot, push the guide into the cylinder until the hole in the guide block is in line with the retaining stud hole at the rear of the cocking lever slot. Screw in the retaining stud, first checking that the lock washer is in position and also ensure that the threads are not crossed. An eight or nine inch length of wooden dowel is useful to compress the mainspring.

Reposition the trigger assembly unit and the nylon cylinder end cap, replace the two transverse retaining pins and refit the telescopic sight arrestor block.

Apply a small amount of grease to the barrel latch and spring before refitting the barrel to the cylinder. Check that the two

steel spacer shims are on the barrel axis screw either side of the barrel block. Tighten up the barrel axis screw firmly using a broad bladed screwdriver.

I always recommend that the barrel joint sealing washer in the breech end of the barrel is renewed each time any break barrel rifle is serviced, as this is one of the first components to wear in normal use. Engage the safety catch and refit the stock, but do not over-tighten any of the stock fixing screws.

Your rifle will now be ready for another year or more of use. Now all that remains is to fire a few pellets safely into the ground to clear any excess oil or grease from the barrel and cylinder. Zero the rifle with your preferred pellet at whatever range you require, and check that both sights — or the telescopic sight if you are using one — are fixed firmly in position.

I have found that my own Magnum rifle shoots the flat head El Gamo pellets reasonably well. These are the pellets recommended by the makers, but as with all flat heads, I find they lose velocity very quickly at longer ranges.

If you prefer lead pellets for hunting, use El Gamo pointed or any good quality pellet such as Wasp or Pylarm. The cleanly cut rifling of the Magnum barrel with its unchoked parallel bore and hard mirror finish is ideal for the new lubricated jacketed pellets, which I have found give superb accuracy and very high velocities at normal hunting ranges.

One final word of advice. The Magnum is tuned at the factory in Spain to produce the very best possible performance for the UK market. For this reason, I recommend that only El Gamo factory components are used for your rifle's maintenance. If poor quality or unsuitable mainsprings are fitted, the rifle will perform well below its potential. Also, only if you are in possession of a valid firearms certificate for your rifle should you fit a replacement magnum mainspring such as Titan or P & J.

Of all the many rifles that I have owned over the last few years, the ASI Magnum is without doubt one of the best engineered and is of more robust construction than rifles costing half as much again. With careful, regular attention and maintenance, your Magnum will more than repay its initial cost in food for the table and enjoyment in the hunting field.



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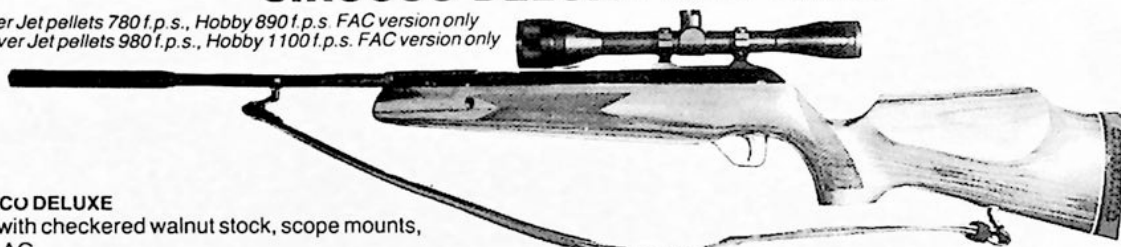


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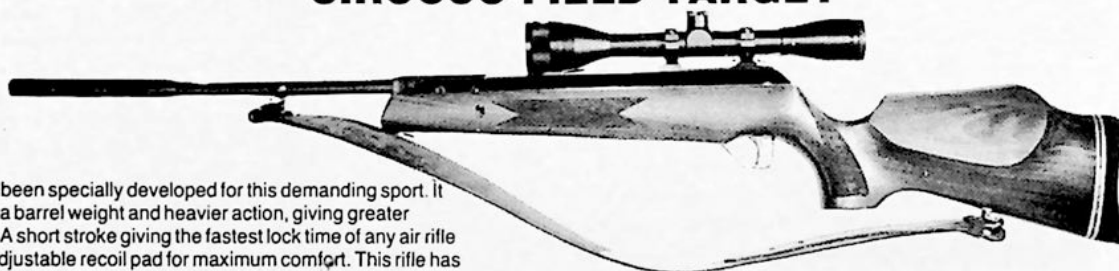
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AGW 5/86



When mounting the gun my eye fell naturally on the scope axis.

The neat chequering and superb finish ensured an excellent grip.



THE LAST MONTH has been one of the most enjoyable I can remember for a long time — despite the abysmal weather! The reason? Well simply that, for the first time since it was introduced, I have been able to field test the Theoben Sirocco!

You may find this hard to believe since it is scarcely a recent addition to the airgun market — and of course I have handled examples in gunshops as well as firing the occasional shot through a borrowed gun at a field target shoot. This can't be considered a satisfactory substitute for using one in the field, however. I find that it is only after spending an hour or two with a weapon, preferably using it to bring a long stalk to a successful conclusion, that you can truly begin to appreciate its real qualities.

A house move towards the end of the year temporarily left me without any decent shooting rights. This also just happened to coincide with the delivery of the Field Target version of the Theoben, which seemed to me to be a wonderful demonstration of 'Sod's Law' — just when I have one of the world's best rifles in my hands, I don't have anywhere to use it!

This version of the Sirocco has been specially engineered for field target shooting. It is 1 lb heavier than the standard rifle, with the balance biased towards the muzzle. It has a choked 15½ inch barrel, fitted with a special muzzle weight. The locking stroke has been reduced and the piston made lighter — for a lightning fast lock time with no loss of power. The trigger has also been altered, with pulls that can be set below 1 lb if required. It's an impressive package, and I decided to try it out in the field.

I drove the 25 miles or so to a farm where I used to shoot. Despite not having seen the farmer since the beginning of last year, I was welcomed with open arms and a large

Theoben's New Star

Jonathan Wilkes samples their new Field Target Special



The trigger is, in a word, stunning!

glass of whisky! Perhaps one of the reasons that I always got on well with the farmer was our mutual love of guns of all types. He attends all the arms fairs for miles around and always has some new acquisition to show off whenever I turn up.

This time, it was my turn to impress him, and he admired the Sirocco with so much envy that it was nearly an hour before I could get outside to do some shooting!

The Sirocco Field Target is a handsome weapon, as I had time to appreciate later while waiting in a cold, windy copse at the base of his largest field. This field is invariably waterlogged as it suffers from poor drainage, although while I was there, it would perhaps be better described as 'icelugged'!

It crossed my mind that the oil finish applied to the Sirocco's stock is still the best way of finishing a weapon's woodwork. Even in the bitterly cold wind that whistled between the bare trees the stock remained warm to the touch and not at all clammy or slippery. Walnut, in particular, is best suited to this finish as it complements the grain and the colour nicely.

I also remembered that in their advertisements, Theoben state that purchasers who call at their premises are able to choose a particular stock for their rifle. If this were my rifle, and I had selected this stock, I would have been very satisfied, as it was very nicely figured indeed.

Both the fore-end and the pistol grip have hand-cut chequering at 15 lines per inch. Enhanced by the rounded bottom to the fore-end, this ensured that the rifle was both comfortable and steady in the aim — whatever position I happened to find myself in.

By now the wind was gusting strongly in the copse, coming from no particular direction and apparently all at once. Eventually I decided that it was getting so

continued on page 52

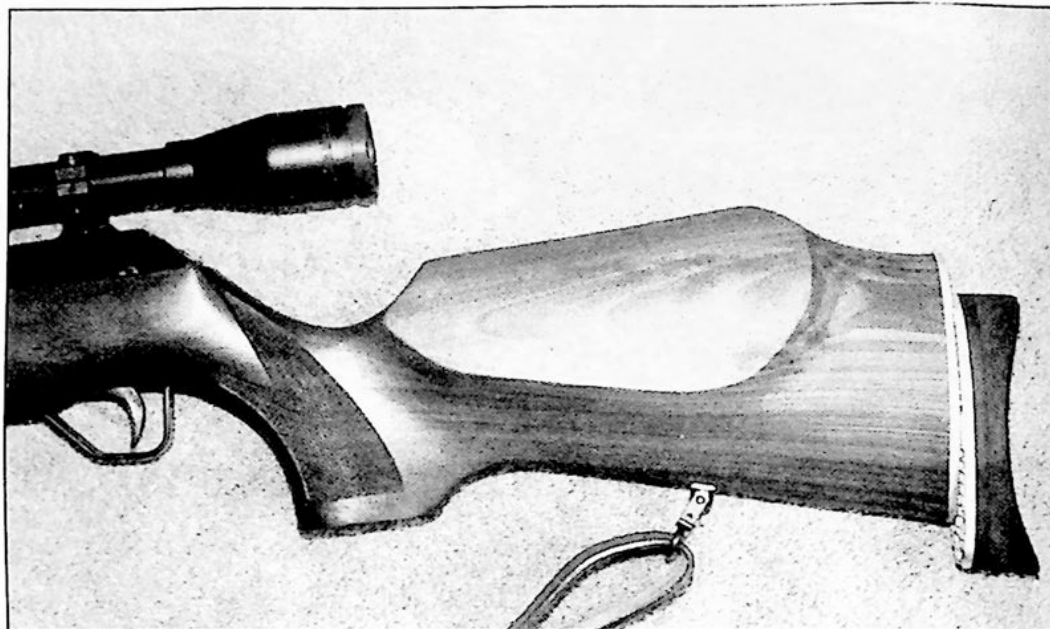
bad that even if any pigeon or crows did land in the branches above the gale would reduce my chances of a successful shot to virtually nil — despite the flatter trajectory and higher velocity of the .177 calibre. Reluctantly I moved closer to the farm, where there was a more sheltered but usually less productive wood.

Approximately halfway I thought it would be wise to check the zero of the telescopic sight. I had already checked this before entering the field, but it always makes sense to double check these things whenever possible. Nestling down into the aiming position, my eye fell naturally on to the scope axis. I was reminded that this was no accident of my build or the cut of the stock, but down to Theoben's excellent design.

Showing excellent common sense, Theoben have provided an adjustable buttplate that ensures the Monte Carlo cheekpiece is at the correct height for each shooter. My own preference was only one notch away from its highest position. This was equally suitable whether I was standing or sitting, although I expect that it would have needed a little lowering for shooting in the prone position. Either way, it would be ideal at any field target event.

Five quick shots produced a neat group in the frozen bark of a dead elm on the fringes of the field. They were about 1½ inches low at the centre of the group, but I estimated that this would be ideal when it came to shooting 30-40 feet up into the branches.

Feeling cold, but reassured, I plodded on to the welcome shelter of an evergreen



The adjustable buttplate ensures absolute shooter comfort.

bush from where I had a commanding view of the new copse. Nothing was visible and, perhaps more ominous, I saw nothing fly out of the branches as I approached. Still I was hopeful, and removed the raincaps from the Tasco 4 × 40 PA scope, which was held securely in place by the Sirocco's own one-piece mounts. How times have changed, as only a few years ago everyone seemed to be plagued with scope creep. Nowadays, it's a problem I hardly ever hear mentioned.

Mounting the rifle to my shoulder brought all the uppermost branches into crystal-clear view. Not that this helped matters, as there was still no quarry to be seen! Resigned to a long wait, I cleared the frost from an exposed tree root and sat down to wait.

Before long, I found myself admiring the Theoben again. The metalwork quality is excellent, as you would expect at the price. Even the smart, low-profile silencer was finished to the same standard as the

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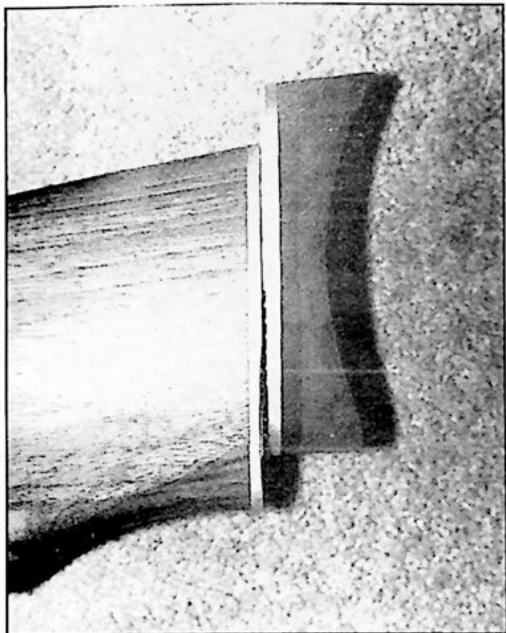
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Adjusting the buttplate is a simple operation.

cylinder and barrel, which is made by Anschütz. Theoben make great claims for the accuracy of these barrels, and there can be no doubt that they are indeed accurate. Whether this is because, or in spite of the choking, I don't know. Either way the end results are excellent.

The trigger is, in a word, stunning! I never thought that I would say this, but in my opinion it even surpasses the Weihrauch Rekord unit which all other triggers have come to be judged against. Its sensitivity and crispness are excellent throughout its range of adjustment, and is a model of the way all triggers should be. It is a progressive two-stage unit that can be lightened to pulls of under 1 lb if you want. I would say that it is simply the best trigger I have ever used, and if Theoben want to quote that in their advertisements then they are welcome.

Nor is the trigger let down by the way the rifle delivers its power. A precise let-off

point signals the beginning of the piston's travel, followed a fraction of a second later by a muted 'crack' and a gentle push in the shoulder. That's all there is to it and, of course, there is no vibration from a spring to complain about! Undoubtedly the combination of the Sirocco's novel gas power source and the revolutionary Zephyr piston have a lot to do with this. The behaviour of the gun belies just how much power it delivers and I would be hard pressed to name a smoother, harder-hitting rifle on the market that doesn't suffer from the 'dead' feel of a pneumatic.

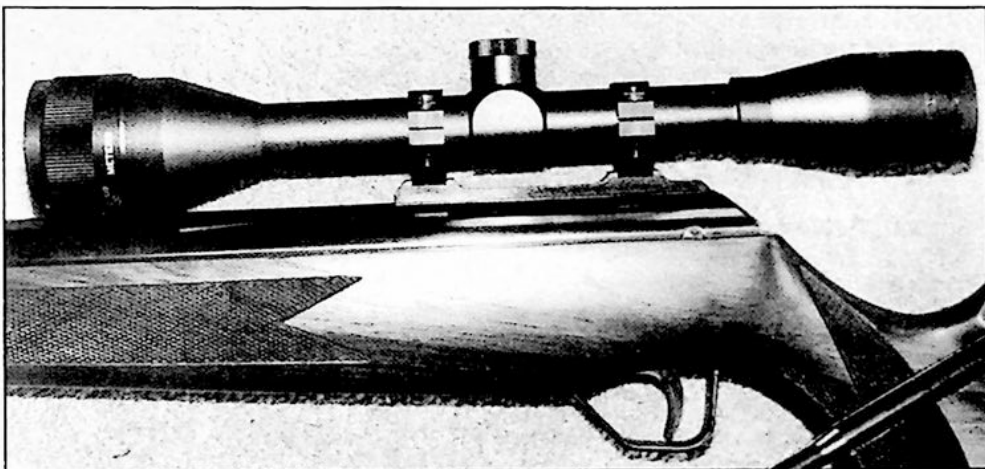
The reduced recoil of the Theoben should be taken as an object lesson by the many tuning firms in just how much the spring in an airgun can contribute to the recoil and action noise in general. While it is obviously impossible to remove it altogether in a conventional spring powered gun, it is possible to quieten it down by the addition of a sleeve and some grease.

This also has the benefit of reducing the residual vibration that lingers after the pellet has left the barrel. This will not affect its accuracy, of course, but it could well make the shooter happier with his gun. In most cases I have come across, if someone is content with his equipment, he shoots well with it — and the converse is also true.

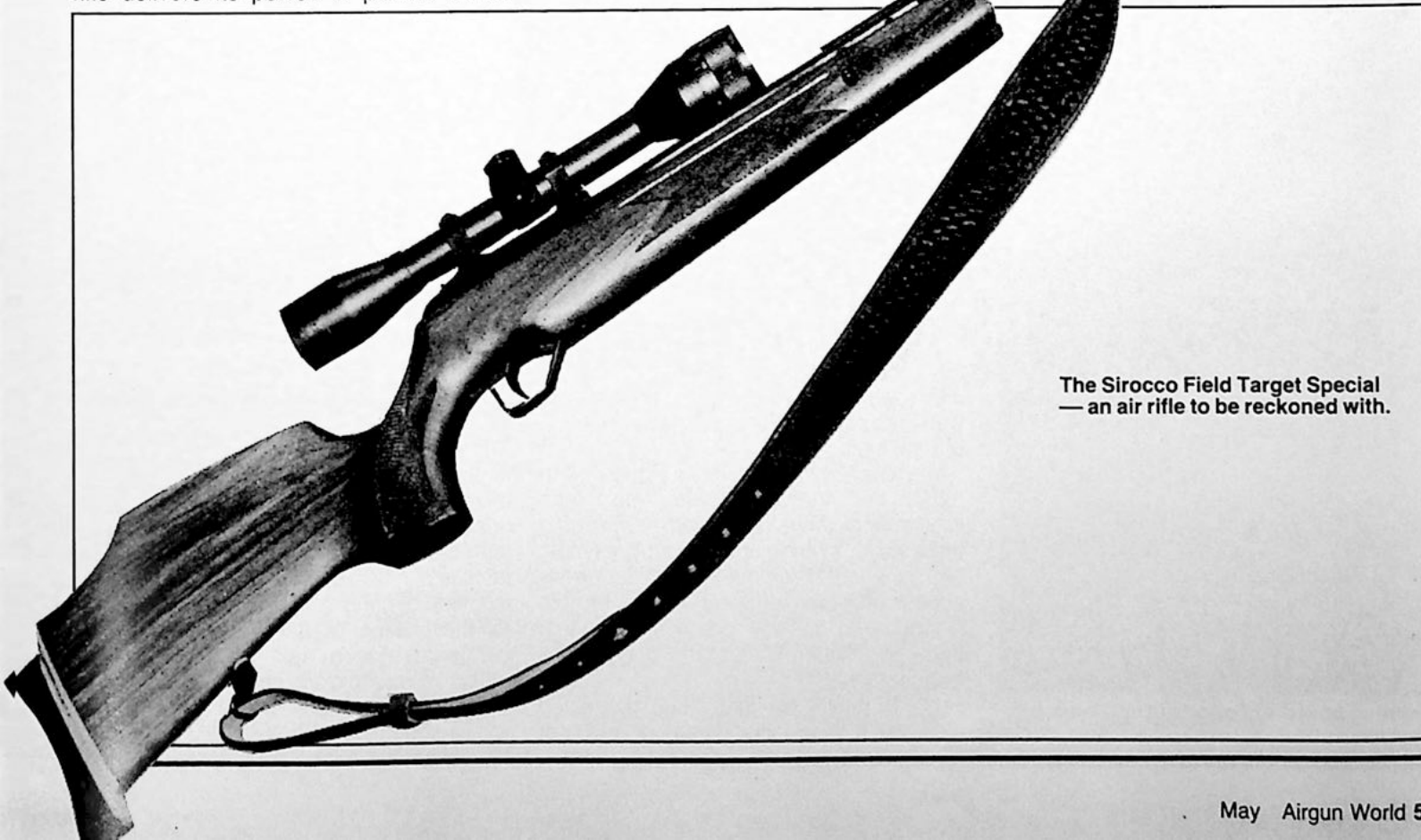
It would have been the perfect end to my day's shooting on the farm to have shot a woodie or two — the Theoben deserved at least that. But before you can shoot them, you have to see them. I didn't have that luck.

That's the way it goes, and in years to come, if our memory is kind to us, we will forget the unsuccessful days and remember only the successful ones.

When it comes to the Sirocco, though, I don't think that I shall forget it for a very, very long time. The Field Target version must give any serious competitive shooter an edge — and, despite its weight, it would make a sensational hunting rifle, too.



The metalwork quality is excellent.



The Sirocco Field Target Special — an air rifle to be reckoned with.

A HUNTING TALE closer to home this month — from the back garden to be more precise! In fact, I cannot really justify use of the word 'hunting', because it only involved the removal of one squirrel from a fairly small piece of land. No stalking and little skill were needed, other than placing the pellet in the right place. Shooting a squirrel in the head at ten yards is not particularly difficult.

Normally, I like to think of the garden as an area where quarry species can go unmolested, the only exceptions being magpies when their numbers increase to unacceptable levels as they did last year. Too many of these avian 'thugs' create an unhealthy situation as far as the rest of the bird population is concerned.

I feel that the suburbs of large conurbations and town gardens are great sanctuaries for magpies, as they can breed without interference. Here they are encouraged and fed by well meaning, but misguided people who think how nice it is to have large attractive birds around, without realising the damage they can do.

Years ago, when the garden was virtually the only shooting place I had, this generally harmonious situation did not exist. Any pigeons venturing into it met with a very hot reception, until word got around that my garden was the number one place to avoid. I tried all sorts of methods to entice them in — including decoying on the lawn. As far as I know, they never fooled the local woodies, but they certainly fooled an elderly neighbour, who took five days to realise that they had not moved, and were in fact fakes!

As usual, with the winter months at hand, we decided to put up a hanging basket full



The culprit about to help himself to another free meal.

GARDEN GUN

*Marc Jobling
describes an unusual
squirrel hunt*

of nuts for the smaller birds, to tide them over any bitterly cold spells during which food is hard to find. Placing food out for the birds at this time can mean the difference between life and death. For a small creature, such as a blue-tit, finding food is crucial during the first couple of hours after dawn, especially during hard weather.

Well, that was the idea. It was definitely not my intention to treat a local squirrel to an exclusive and extended buffet service, which is what happened. Living near the centre of the village and with relatively few trees in the vicinity we are not often troubled by squirrels. I returned home on the first day, however, to discover the metal basket lying empty on the ground, while the hook attachment and top dangled forlornly in the wind above it. The culprit had done his dirty work and vanished.

It did not take a genius to work out who the offender was. After repairing the damaged holder, I replaced it, and filled it with nuts in the vain hope that it was just a one-off visit.

Fat chance! A squirrel is not likely to forget the source of such easy and profitable pickings, and over the following three days, even in spite of our presence, he managed to remove the basket on six occasions. Approximately 1¼ lbs of nuts disappeared in the process. 'It's that damned squirrel again!' became a frequently heard refrain.

Up to now I felt that I had restrained myself to a remarkable degree. It could not



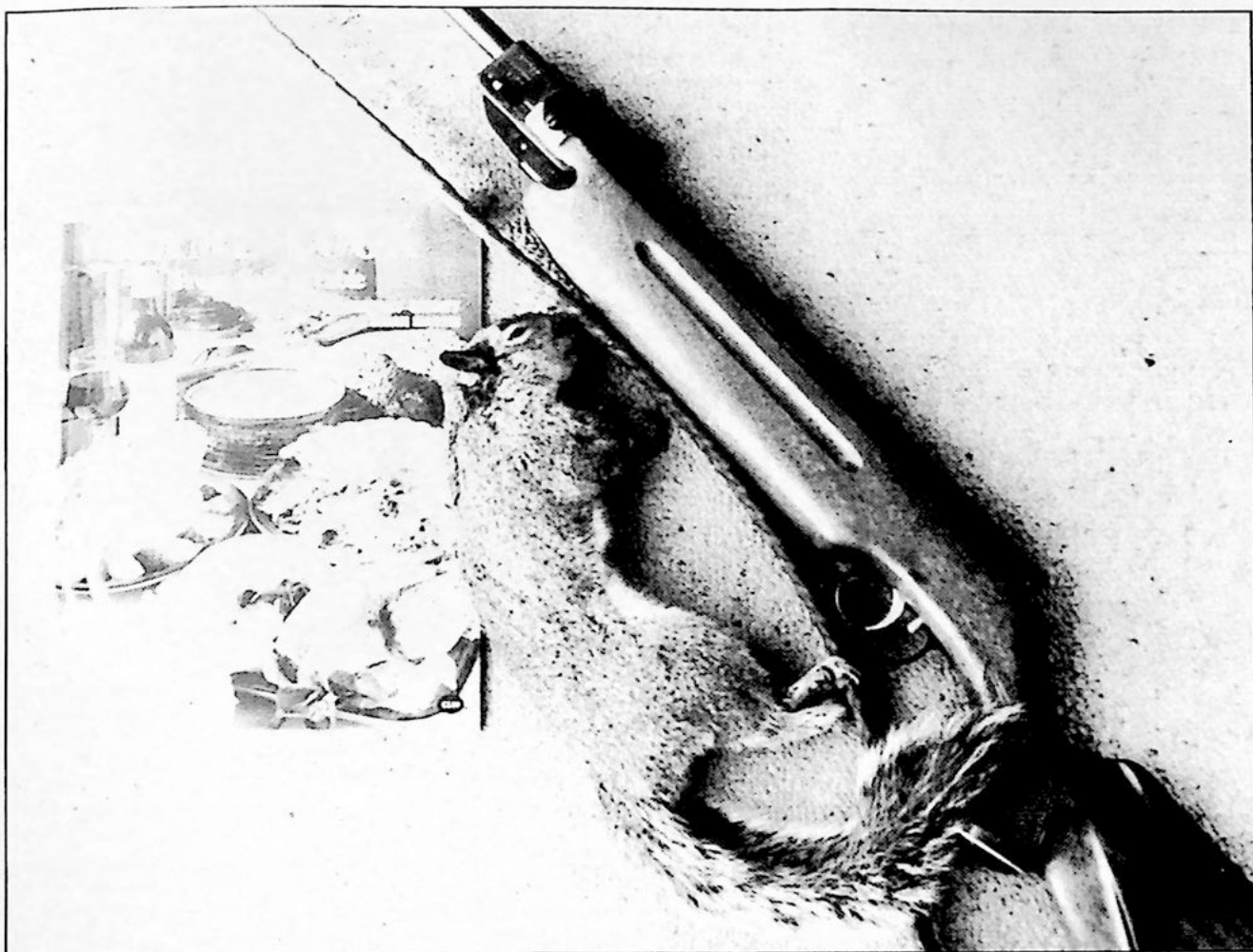
I had to wait until the squirrel was on the ground for a safe shot.

last, however, and from the moment when he was discovered digging up the lawn to bury his ill-gotten gains his days were numbered.

Choosing an afternoon when the house was empty, I placed a pile of nuts and other tempting tit-bits on the lawn, where I could take a safe shot. I left the hanging basket in position as an added attraction, feeling fairly certain that the squirrel would head for the pile of nuts on the ground first. I had no intention of firing at him if he decided to go for the basket, as the angle was far too dangerous for a safe shot. The main objective was to bring him into the garden, where sooner or later I would be presented with a shot.



Shooting from the comforts of my home was great fun.



Squirrel stew in the making!



I gave the honours to my HW35E.

On this particular occasion I decided to give the honours to my Weihrauch HW35E, which had lain dormant since buying the HW80. It is in a state of semi-retirement at the moment — a situation which I doubt will last. After a couple of bad days, when I cannot hit a thing, I will probably blame the HW80 — unjustifiably — and take out the Export.

The trouble is that at the moment, my HW80 can do no wrong! It has instilled immense confidence, a situation which, in

the field, can make all the difference between a kill and a miss.

A scope was unnecessary for such close range shooting, so I spent ten minutes with the rifle using the open sights, until I was satisfied that I could not miss. I then settled down to wait, sitting just inside the back door, fairly warm and comfortable, coffee to hand — and by normal field

shooting standards in the height of luxury!

An hour slipped away without any sign of my prey, although there were numerous small birds, and it was beginning to look doubtful whether any of my bait would be left by the time he arrived. Another ten minutes passed and I had just decided to risk disturbing things to make myself another coffee when he appeared. Hesitating briefly, he climbed over the fence and scampered down the trunk of a lilac tree. He paused at the base, before running across the lawn to find the rapidly diminishing pile of nuts.

The adrenalin flowed as I cautiously raised the rifle. I waited a moment until he presented me with a better angle and then squeezed the trigger — exit one squirrel.

Now all that remained was to turn him into something edible, which is fairly easy to do if you have a copy of *Game Cook*, by Rosemary Wadey and Brian Martin. A really excellent cook book and the best that I have ever come across for cooking game — something no hunter should be without.

It does not, unfortunately, feature recipes on squirrels, because in this country they



Town gardens are great sanctuaries for magpies.

are only occasionally eaten, unlike America, where squirrel is a popular dish. However, there is absolutely no reason why you cannot adapt some of the recipes in the book — following the same rules.

In particular, the rabbit recipes are ideal because rabbit and squirrel have meat which is similar in appearance and taste. You need more squirrels, of course, but that just adds to the excitement and challenge of the hunt. It is also just another excuse to take out the rifle!



Happy return

I chose two competitions within three weeks of each other as a starting point.

I HAD DECIDED it was time that I competed in a couple of open 10 metre competitions just to see what standard I had reached. I had not done any serious training at all and had kept my shooting to a minimum. I had done just enough to bring a little familiarity back.

The idea was to choose two competitions near to each other — within three weeks of one another — and record a couple of scores to give myself a starting point against which to judge myself over the next 12 months, so that I can monitor my match performance. I can then decide what part, if any, of my training affects my performance one way or another.

The two opens I chose were the Liverpool ARPC on November 2nd and 3rd 1985 and the Prestatyn open on November 16th and 17th 1985. I travelled to the Liverpool shoot with a friend. He drove so that would be one excuse I would not be able to use after the competition if things did not go too well for me.

I did not really have an average, and did not know how I would perform in a match, so to be fair I decided I would put an average knowing full well it would place me in Class A. By doing this the only person that could be affected by this decision if it was wrong was me.

To have put any other average that put me in a lower class would have been unfair. It is up to individual shooters to be honest and fair to fellow competitors — 99 per cent are, of course, but as in everything else we have that small element who are always trying to pull a 'flanker' to pick up a prize. In my view the prize is worthless and the only person they fool is themselves.

I genuinely did not know what to expect from myself under match conditions. I have had some real disasters in the past and not having competed for such a long time it was anyone's guess what I would do.

We got to the range with about an hour to spare. There was no weapons check and formalities seemed to have been kept to a minimum. Paul Counce welcomed my

David Price continues his competitive comeback

friend and myself and explained where we should go if we wanted refreshments.

The range was dark and cold and everyone was walking around with anoraks on, rubbing their hands. I wasn't about to stand around in there for too long. I had thoughts of finding somewhere warmer just as soon as I had looked at everything I needed to.

I found a place to park my gear and had a look at the firing points. They were not very well lit and there were no target changers, so obviously we were going to be given a time limit for each card — probably about eight minutes a card with a minute for changing targets.

I don't like shooting without target changers in competition, because it breaks my rhythm — if I ever get into one — and knowing there is a time limit for each card tends to make me rush my shots, which is not something I normally think about. Still, I was not going to let that bother me and did not think about it again, although I did accept that the conditions were a little difficult. Mind you, it could have been worse — it could have been outside, where it was really freezing!

I had a quick look at the squadding list and discovered that firing points had not been allocated in advance. In fact, you just picked your own.

There were one or two familiar names on the list, most of whom I had not seen for a long time, so I was hoping to renew some old acquaintances. The spare hour which we had before our detail passed very quickly and in next to no time at all I had donned my shooting togs, put my name on my cards and went to the only firing point left.

It was on the extreme right of the range

and I was staring at a wall. I had a look at my target through my scope. The picture was not at all clear and I was not going to be able to see accurately enough to decide if a shot was within half a ring because the light was so poor.

I decided I would take only one sighting card and shoot a group at the centre diagram. If I required extra time for a series I could at least use the time allocated for the second sighting target. By making this decision I was assuming that I would settle down quickly and be able to assess the sighting of my rifle in a very short space of time and within very few shots.

On the other hand eight minutes is not long to settle down and if you did, you have to do it ten times in total or nine if you leave just one card up for the first 16 minutes, or do what I did and only take sighters for the first eight minutes. Either way the choice is there for you to use to your own advantage, if you can call it an advantage.

I knew the conditions were a little awkward, but some competitors found the aiming mark almost indiscernible and were cursing, groaning and grunting. At the end of one series someone said his hand was so cold he could not feel his trigger. I personally did not find it too bad. I did notice, however, that my 'bottle' has gone compared to the old days. Everyone suffers from nerves one way or another but I can remember when I used to perform well under a little tension. What I was experiencing now was what all beginners must feel, only I had forgotten what it was like and how to control it.

I am going to have to shoot in a lot of competitions during 1986 so that I learn to live with the nerves and to take control of the situation. I think this may be one of my real problem areas for quite a while — and knowing other shooters feel similarly does not help me.

I am having a problem with competition nerves and it is something I must work on. It is actually a fear of shooting. I lose points hand over fist because of it, and I can easily

distinguish between a miss through error and a miss if I am a bit 'windy'.

All in all, the competition did not go too badly although I felt it should have gone better. I knew I was about eight or nine points down due purely to nerves.

My sighter went reasonably. I put a fair group up just about three clicks on my sights off centre to the right. I adjusted my sights and began my scoring cards, which were very up and down. Although I don't recall individual shots, I do know I was having difficulty getting some shots to 'break' and had a couple of bad ones go out into the seven ring.

Considering I have not done any work on my shooting I must expect these fliers, though, and do something to stop them going that far out.

My scores that day were as follows: 47, 47, 46, 48, 48, 47, 46, 48. This gave a total of 377 ex 400, enough for me to just scrape a win by two points. More importantly I was back into competition and looked forward to the next one at Prestatyn.

Unfortunately, all did not go too well over the next 10-12 days. First I developed a very bad cold, which believe it or not only lasted about ten hours. The day after that I went dizzy in the town centre and found myself on the floor face down. The same thing happened again nearly every day for the next nine days.

I did not make the decision to go to the shoot until the morning of the day of my detail. I had been all right the previous two days, so I thought I would risk it.

The journey was over 100 miles. It was a terrible day — dark and raining.

My first detail was mediocre. I was stopped from shooting three times due to target changer problems, and finally I was asked to change firing points halfway through my course due to a malfunction on my target changer. Because I did not know how many diagrams I had shot on the target I had stuck in the changer, I was given a replacement target and told to reshoot it. I finished that course with a 377 — too many nines.

The second course did not go well at all. I dropped no end of points halfway, mainly

due to lack of concentration. I felt terrible, and at one stage I nearly gave in. Looking back, I can safely say that I really should be pleased with my performance. My second course was a 371 and is the only second course I can ever remember shooting a lower score than on my first. Given the way I felt, though, it really wasn't too bad.

The second course was a disaster.



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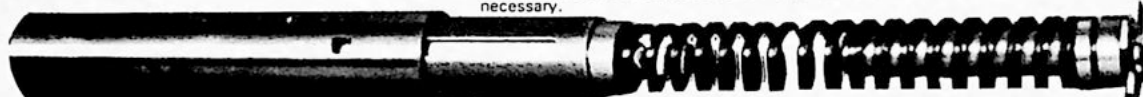
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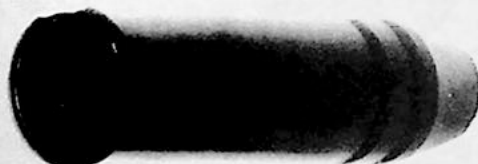
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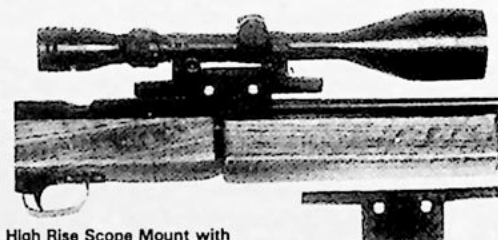
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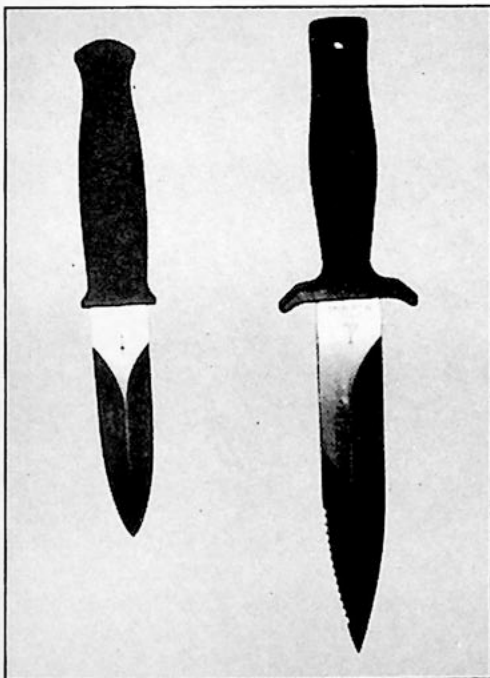
REGULAR READERS OF *Airgun World* may remember that I said I anticipated criticism after my review of two Gerber knives in the February issue. They were good quality knives that I thought suited the needs of serious airgun field shooters — but at a price! Comments haven't been as bad as I anticipated, so I thought I would stick my neck out a little further this month and look at another couple of knives from the same range.

SURVIVAL KNIVES

This time I have chosen two fixed blade survival knives with stainless steel blades and black epoxy coated aluminium handles, called the Guardian and the Command 1.

Survival knives are an American invention. Living in a country that has areas of mountain and forests larger than England and Wales put together means that an unwary hunter may find himself in a dicey situation. At one extreme this could be an accident resulting in a limb injury that needs a splint and possibly a crutch. At the other end of the scale I suppose he could be really unlucky and be jumped on by a mountain lion! Either way the luckless hunter's life may depend upon his skill with a knife. If it isn't up to the job then his chances of survival will be pretty remote.

Because of the wide range of uses to which it may be put, it is very difficult to generalise about what does and what doesn't qualify to be called a survival knife. One thing is sure, though, it has to be dependable, strong and adaptable.



The Guardian (left) and Command 1 knives from Gerber.

Some manufacturers of survival knives have opted for the gimmicky approach. Hollow handles, signalling mirrors, digital watches, fishing kits, catapults and so on are all available. The list is endless and for all I know there may be one which has a miniature version of the kitchen sink hidden on it somewhere! With the exception of one or two makes, though, all of these extras are provided at the expense of the quality of the blade — and a knife is only as good as its blade. In my opinion it is better to forego the extras and get a quality knife!

Gerber obviously think this way too. With these two knives, they have resisted all other considerations and simply produced excellent, but basic, knives.

The Guardian — the smaller of the two at 7¼ inches in overall length — has a double-edged blade that I found to be moderately useful for the skinning and cleaning of my quarry. Normally I keep one knife for this purpose alone as it makes certain specialised demands on the shape and length of the blade. These do tend to make a skinning knife fairly useless for other work, however, and anyone who was looking to buy only one quality knife would probably be more than happy with the Guardian — provided they understand its limitations for skinning.

The Command 1 on the other hand is not really suitable for skinning airgun sized quarry at all. The point on the end of the blade is too sharp, the blade itself is too long and you would probably do more harm than good if you tried it. Being a much heavier knife than the Guardian, the Command seems to me to be ideal for the person, like myself, who already has a

Jonathan Wilkes tests a variety of accessories

skinning knife and is looking for another, more robust, knife with which to do the tougher jobs around his shoot. Hide construction is the first of these that springs to my mind, although localised hedge trimming to remove the odd overhanging branch would also be well within its capabilities.

When I first examined the knife, I will admit to a certain amount of doubt about its strength towards the tip of the blade. It is a single-edged blade that is admirably thick near its junction with the handle. But the addition of a serrated edge to the final two

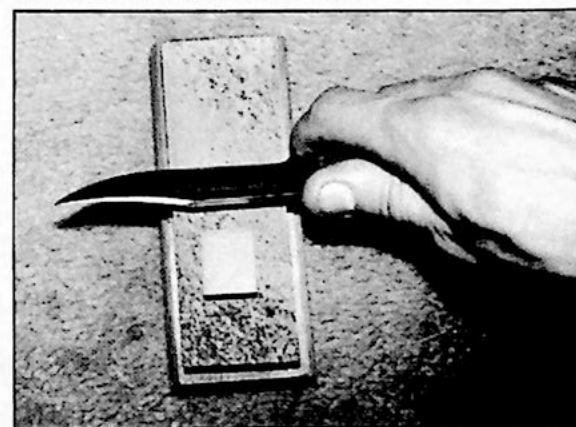
inches at the tip means that it narrows considerably towards the point.

I felt sure that this tip would break off without too much pressure on my part. I am pleased to report that experience has shown it to be much stronger than it looks, however. It is this sort of quality that you are paying for.

Which brings me rather neatly to the price. As with their lock-knives, the Gerber name does not come cheap. Complete with a sturdy leather sheath the Guardian costs £35, while the Command 1 weighs in at a hefty £42.50 — both prices subject to VAT. If you choose to buy one, console yourself and your bank manager with the knowledge that you will never wear it out — and will probably never need to buy another knife!

Gerber's agents in this country are Springfield Firearms, 8 Eastbourne Road, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4SZ.

SMITH'S HONING KIT



The angle of the sharpening guide is ideal for most knives.

Having successfully obtained a second mortgage for your new knife, you would be foolish not to look after it properly — and that means keeping it sharp. Despite what the local know-it-all may tell you, the doorstep is not the best medium available for doing this! The best knives will only perform to the standard that the manufacturer intended if you use the

continued on page 60



The Smith's honing kit has two grades of stone, oil, polishing cream and a sharpening guide.



Very little oil is necessary on the stone.

correct grades of sharpening stone.

Springfield Firearms are obviously aware of their customers' needs in this respect, and are selling the Smith's Honing Kit for the purpose. This contains two grades of Arkansas stone — medium and fine — a tin of specially light honing oil, a tube of polishing cream for cleaning the blade and

a 23 degree angle sharpening guide, which is the ideal angle for most knives. The whole set comes in its own smart plastic case, which should keep everything together in one neat place.

You may or may not need to use both grades of stone when sharpening your knife, depending on how blunt it is to begin with. Either way, explicit and idiot-proof instructions are supplied on the back of the oil can as well as in a small leaflet included in the case.

I would not claim to be particularly experienced in the art of knife sharpening, but within a few minutes I was achieving an acceptable edge on even a poor quality penknife. The technique is this:

Coat the surface of the stone with the oil provided. Very little is necessary and the amount supplied will be sufficient for hundreds of applications.

Lay the blade of the knife flat on the stone and then raise the back of the knife until it forms an angle of roughly 20 degrees with the stone's surface — this is where the guide comes in handy.

Maintaining this angle, push the knife forwards as though you were trying to cut a thin slice off the top of the stone.

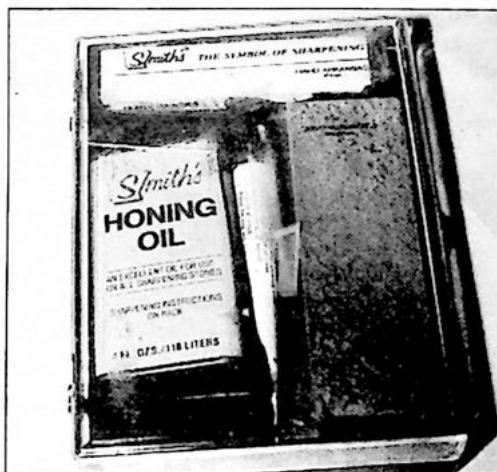
Repeat this action another two or three times and then do the same for the other side of the blade. In this way, and by performing the same number of strokes on each side of the blade, you should shortly begin to see some results for your labours.

If you started off on the medium stone, as soon as you begin to get a sharp edge, you must move to the fine grade in order to

finish it off perfectly.

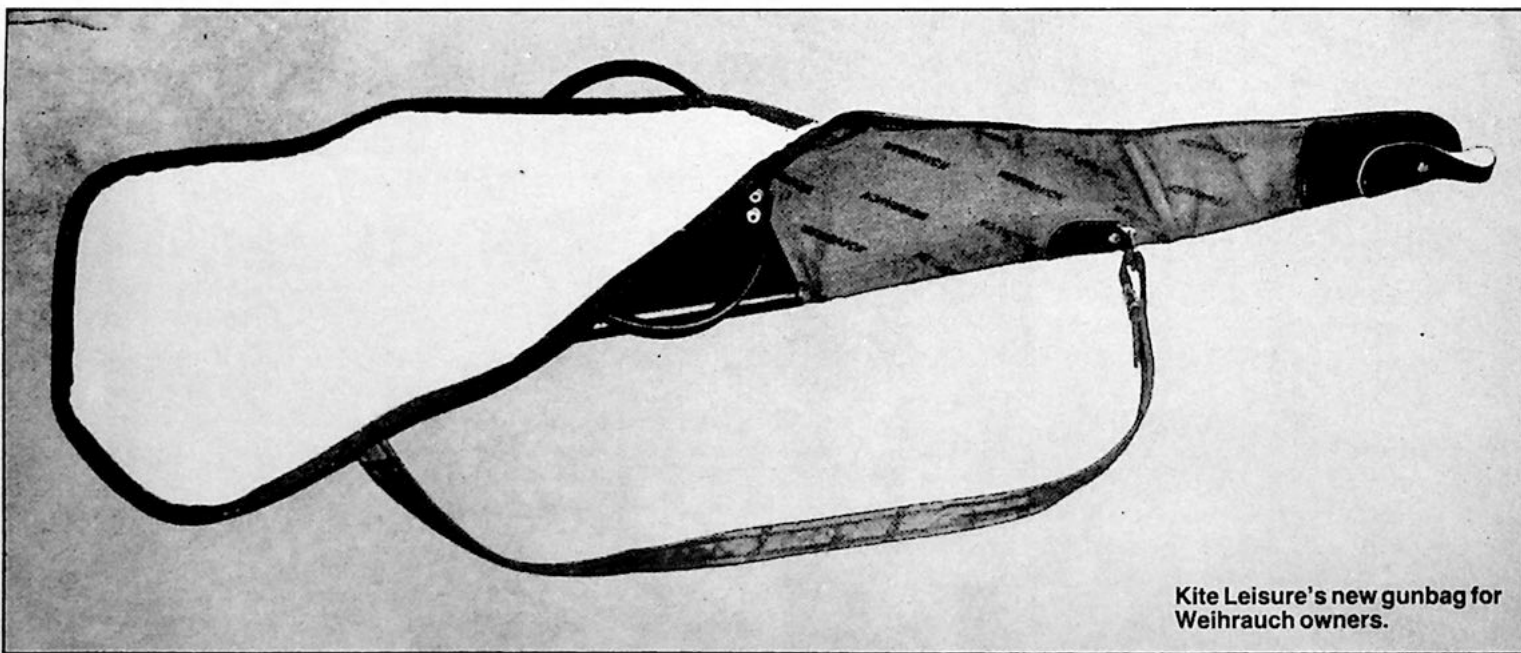
The Arkansas stones as supplied in the kit are natural stones, and they will tend to become blocked with traces of metal after only a short while. To preserve their sharpening ability you should wipe the oil from the stone when it becomes at all dirty, and replace it with fresh.

I feel that a kit such as this is a necessity for anyone who cares about maintaining his hunting equipment in good condition. A blunt knife is worse than useless — it can be downright dangerous! It could slip instead of cut and cause a nasty injury. If it were me that had bought this kit, I would consider it to be £19.75 (plus VAT) well spent!



The complete Smith's Honing Kit from Springfield Firearms.

KITE FOR WEIHRAUCHS



Kite Leisure's new gunbag for Weihrauch owners.

As well as caring for their knives, field shooters must care for their rifles too. More and more shooters are buying Weihrauchs, and having done so are justifiably proud of their purchase. I expect that they would be interested in a gunbag that advertised the name of their rifle.

Marketed by Kite Leisure of 3 Goldwell Drive, Speen, Newbury in Berkshire, it is certainly one of the best that I have seen. The lining is simulated lambswool, while the exterior is of a hardwearing nylon that should stand up to a lot of hard use from even the most inconsiderate airgunner.

What makes this gunbag particularly special for the Weihrauch owner is that it has the name of this German manufacturer all over the outside. I hope that other makers' names are available, too, as it could provide the finishing touch to an otherwise perfect shooting outfit.

The construction of this bag throughout is excellent. Both carrying handles and a shoulder strap are fitted, with the former being attached to a broad band of simulated leather. This spreads the weight of the rifle evenly and so reduces the risk of the material tearing where the handles are

stitched — normally the first place that damage shows itself.

A common problem that plagues gunbags is insufficient room around the area of the telescopic sight. This particular bag has no problems in this respect and there is plenty of space for even the largest of scopes.

Yet another example of the attention to detail is the full length zip. Drying out a wet gunbag is much easier if it is possible to open out fully. It seems such an obvious requirement that I wonder why every manufacturer doesn't do it.

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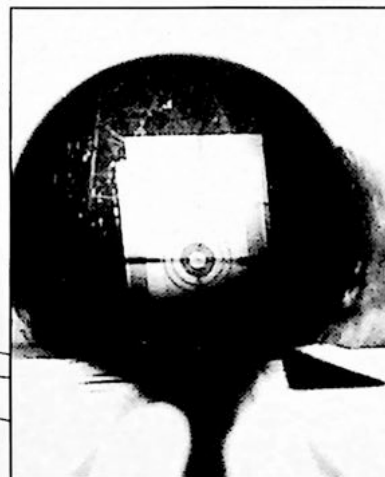
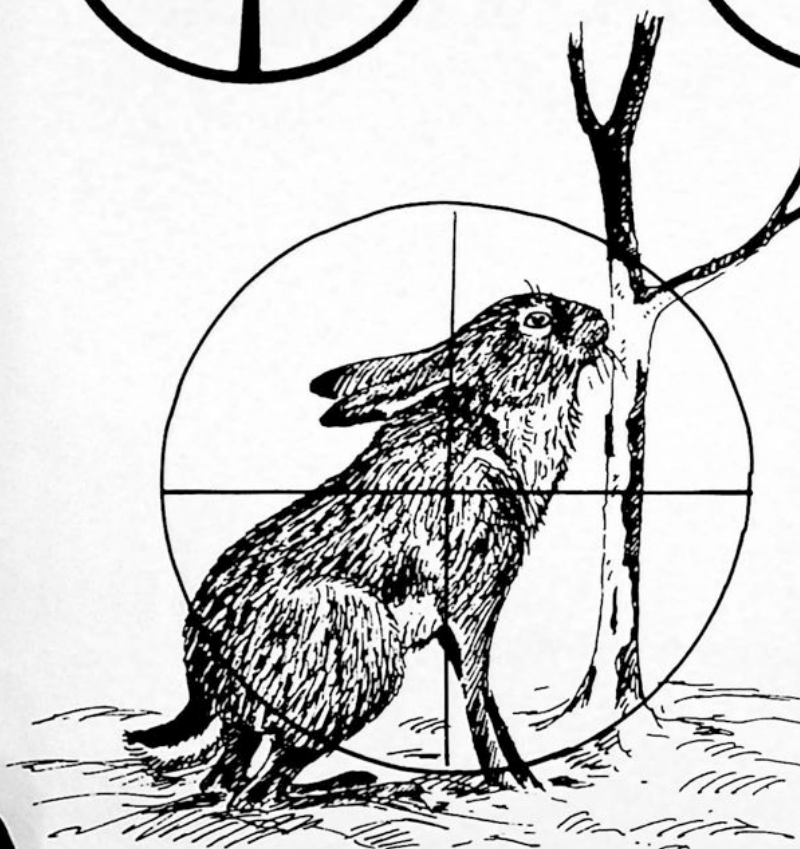
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AGW5

Richard Prior describes the array of scope reticules



With parallax adjustment



... and the normal view.

THE BASIC air rifle is equipped with iron sights consisting in their most primitive form, of a bead or blade foresight which has to be aligned with a notch or 'V' in the rearsight and with the target. This involves an optical impossibility — simultaneously focusing three objects at different distances from the eye. The human eye is flexible enough to accommodate this problem, and with the poor old mental computer working overtime, a reasonable sight picture can be obtained, probably because the brain is switching very rapidly from sharp focus on the sights to sharp focus on the target and back again.

The first stage in overcoming the physical problems of open sights is to substitute an aperture for the backsight. This simply means a hole fairly close to the eye, through which you can view the foresight and the target. Although the aperture may seem quite large, your eye automatically centres, and an improvement in accuracy is possible. Even so, focusing two objects sharply is not easy when the foresight is perhaps 60 cm from the eye, and the target is 15 metres or more farther away. At any given moment, one or the other will always appear to be rather indistinct.

The scope sight, rigidly mounted to the barrel, and properly adjusted, overcomes

this problem. Aiming is made easy because the aiming mark — traditionally a crosshair, and often known as a reticule — is superimposed on a magnified image of the target. You still have to hold the weapon straight, but a good scope gives you crystal clear definition.

Choosing a scope can be terribly puzzling for the novice. Let's face it, one black tube with knobs on looks very much like another, and the choice these days is enormous. Prices vary from a few pounds to several hundred — so how do you make a choice?

As far as reticules are concerned, there is a variety of designs. Pecar, for example, advertise 12 different reticule types, and most manufacturers have three or four. The reticule itself may be constructed from very fine tough wire, or etched on to the lens. Even the basic crosshairs are available in different widths. Fine lines are ideal for very precise aiming in brilliant light conditions, but fail if you are hunting rabbits in the dusk, as the reticule is very difficult to see.

Scopes designed for big game rifles must give very fast aiming in all light conditions, and tend to feature thick black posts. These may be either blunt, pointed or prolonged at the end with a fine line. Usually there is a small crosshair in the centre for precise aiming, while the posts help to improve

speed in bad light conditions. This is known as a combination reticule, which has various trade names, such as Dual-X, Multi-Plex and so on.



Pointed posts have the disadvantage that as light fails, you can no longer see the fine tip, and the point of aim slides progressively down the post, resulting in higher and higher shots. Some manufacturers correct this by using a horizontal wire and a vertical post design which is ideal for big game shooting, except in designs where the post extends beyond the crosswire. This can result in erratic shooting in bad light, as you tend to choose the intersection rather than the tip of the post.

For hunting quarry within the limits of an air rifle, and for most target work, I prefer the combination reticule, although many purely target shooters prefer for the plain crosshair.

Reticules consisting of one or more dots, sometimes in conjunction with fine crosshairs, originated in the United States. They were invented by T.K. Lee from Birmingham, Alabama, who earned the nick-name 'Tack-Hole' Lee by shooting his famous small groups.

Lee made his first dot reticule in 1912, and claimed that it was responsible for his top scores. The original dot reticules were made of cultivated spider silk, which was supposed to be very tough and resistant to recoil. Sharpe, in his massive tome *The Rifle in America*, states that spider thread from the cocoon — not from the web — is far the best substance as cocoon thread is strong and has the elasticity of rubber.

Crosshairs have been made from copper, silver and platinum wires, although they tend to break in service, while tungsten wire has also been used in sizes as small as 0.00025ins. They are extremely strong for their diameter.

I recently reviewed in the January issue of *Airgun World* a scope fitted with a ring reticule, which appeared to be more suitable for target shooting than for hunting and was similar to the ring foresights used in iron sight combinations.

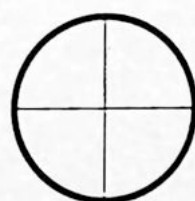
Among the scopes readily available, only Pecar, to my knowledge, offer

interchangeable reticules. Rule number one with almost all scopes, is not to attempt in any way to dismantle them. Besides being a complex instrument, they are nitrogen filled to avoid fogging, and this filling is lost on dis-assembly. Pecar have the reticule in a compartment sealed from the rest of the scope so that it can be removed and another one inserted. While this has certain advantages, I have never come across anyone who makes use of this facility, although a large number of acquaintances use these excellent sights on a variety of rifles.

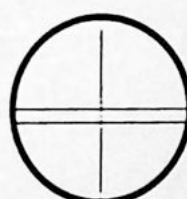
The big problem comes with Vari-power scopes. Switch-power scopes from Germany and Austria usually follow the continental theory of using the reticule as a rangefinder. The idea is that an object of known size, such as a rabbit, fits between the posts of the reticule at a given distance. To preserve this image, the reticule as well as the target image must increase in apparent size as the power is increased, so that at high power the reticule is very fat and coarse, and at low power it becomes thin and fine.

This is the reverse of common sense requirements, as you really need low power and a thick reticule for quick shots at comparatively short ranges, while a long deliberate shot calls for higher power and also a finer aiming point. Recently, Zeiss have acknowledged the contrary argument in their latest C-series of scopes designed for the British and American market. Their outstanding switch-power Diavari scopes have a constant-size reticule irrespective of the magnification of the image, so that it appears fatter in relation to the target at low power, and finer at high power. To my mind, this is a much more satisfactory arrangement.

A selection of reticule designs available today.



1. CROSSHAIR



4. RANGE-FINDER®



2. DUAL X®



5. DOT
(at extra cost)



3. POST AND CROSSHAIR

Other vari-power scopes have posts which are tapered towards the centre of the field. These give the impression of the reticule remaining more or less the same size because, as the power is increased, the field of view is reduced so you only see the finer part of the posts.

Another recent development is the illuminated battery powered reticule, for use in bad light. I reviewed these in the November issue last year. The gadget conscious will like to play with them, but I failed to convince myself that they were really practical. The whole idea of a scope sight is to see the target clearly. If there is enough light, natural or artificial, the reticule should clearly stand out. There may be some very specialised uses for battery powered scopes, but you are always at the mercy of a dud battery. Scopes are complicated enough, without introducing extra, and unnecessary features.

On the lens bell of several scope makes you will see the words 'image-moving'. This is a valuable feature which has been built into modern scopes to avoid difficulties when mounting and zeroing them.

With the older types, unless there were adjustments built into the mounts themselves, you could find that most of the windage and elevation movement available had been taken up, just to get the pellet into the bull. This left the reticule visibly out of centre in the sight picture. Image-moving scopes are constructed in such a way that the reticule is always centred, adjustments producing movements of the actual image in relation to it. The full field of view is therefore importantly maintained on either side of the crosswires.

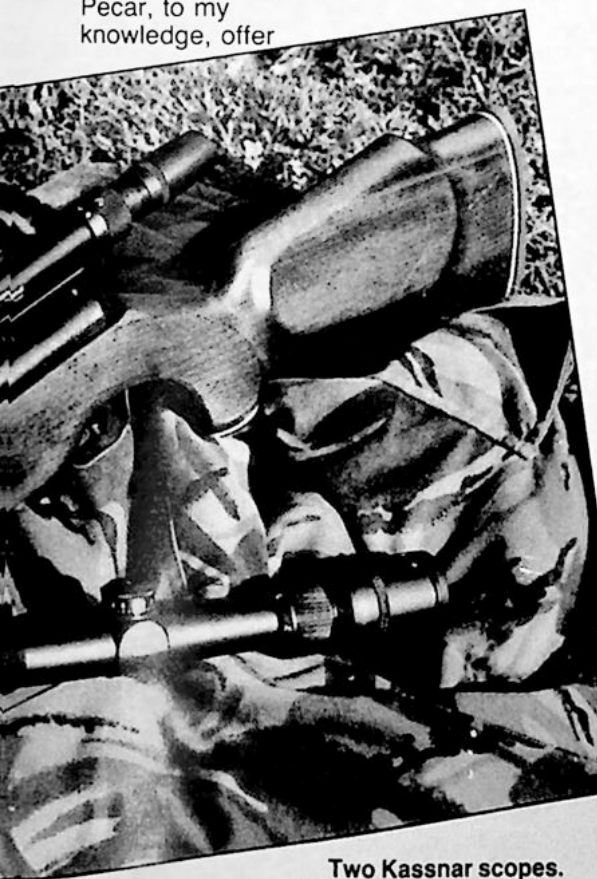
Another problem which the airgunner may encounter is parallax. This is best seen by clamping the scoped rifle aimed at a target some 10 or 15 metres away. By moving your head from side to side, some movement of the reticule in relation to the target may be seen.

The shorter the range, and the higher the magnification, the worse parallax becomes. Hunting scopes are usually set to be free of parallax from 20 to 30 metres to infinity. Good gun mounting and the ability to centre the eye should reduce the error to well within the standards of accuracy needed for normal hunting.

However, for target shooting, and particularly for higher power scopes, the shorter ranges normal in air rifle shooting are catered for by providing a turning ring and range scale on the objective lens bell. Setting the range on this eliminates parallax altogether at shorter distances.

Focusing to ensure that the image and the reticule are equally sharp depends partly on individual eyesight. On the eyepiece, you will find either a clamped locking ring with which you lock the whole eyepiece after turning it to get the perfect focus or, as with the Kassnar scopes, a speed-focusing ring similar to that found on a pair of binoculars. Plus and minus diopters are calibrated directly on the eyepiece, and is an important point when a rifle is used by more than one person.

Like mastering computers, most of us are more concerned with knowing how to work scope sights, rather than knowing how they work. In later articles I will deal with other aspects of scope choice and operation.



Two Kassnar scopes.

CLUB NEWS

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SHOOTING NEWS

Welsh Shoot

Target Sports of Bolton, Lancs are holding a field target shoot at North Wales Country Sports Fair, Gwysaney Hall, Mold, Clwyd on Monday, May 26th. All the events will be sponsored and will include a 20 knockdown course, long-range shoot and a plinking range, plus an air rifle and pistol range for the general public.

Further details from Target Sports, 456 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton, Lancs. Tel: Bolton 55513.

Iceni Invitation

Despite a bitterly cold day many enthusiastic shooters made their way to Iceni Marksmen's Colchester shooting grounds for their invitation shoot on February 23rd.

A tricky 21 target course had been set out in the woods, with the trees causing problems for overhead shots. But no problems for Roger Cameron, who used his Chameleon FTS to good effect to beat the course to record an impressive 21 ex 21. Roger seems to enjoy shooting at Iceni's ground as he has recorded two first places and a second in recent visits.

Dave Welham was much in evidence in both the main event and side shoots, while Dave Crawford was shooting his way into the prizes. Dave's mother, Anne, secured first prize in the ladies event, while Alex Klein shot extremely well to take the top junior title and finished seventh overall in the main event.

A good day was had by all, despite the cold weather, and Iceni would like to thank those shooters who braved the elements to provide such excellent competition.

RESULT. Main Shoot: 1. R. Cameron, 2. B. Macraw, 3. R. Crawford, 4. R. Welham, 5. R. Gray, 6. D. Crawford, 7. A. Klein, 8. J. Sutton, 9. S. Crew, 10. D. Welham. **Ladies:** 1. A. Crawford. **Juniors:** 1. A. Klein. **Vermin shoot:** 1. M. Andrews, 2. H. Crawford, 3. M. Camoccio, 4. R. Welham, 5. D. Welham. **Long-Range Shoot:** 1. N. Everrett, 2. R. Cameron, 3. P. Dennis. **Speed Shoot:** 1. D. Welham, 2. D. Crawford, 3. D. Randall. **Pistol Shoot:** 1. D. Welham, 2. D. Crawford, 3. S. Crew. **Marksmen Shoot:** 1. B. Macraw, 2. D. Crawford, 3. R. Gray. **Ten-Pin Shoot:** 1. G. Monk, 2. M. Harrington, 3. R. Welham.

New Secretary

Reading & District AGC have a new secretary. Mrs Irene Carter has taken over the position and she can be contacted at 3 Shipley Close, Woodley, Reading, Berks, RG5 4RT. Tel: 0734 693590.

Postal Competition

The NAR & PC are holding a 6 yard postal competition during May. The event will be three positions, 20 shots in each. Entry fees are £1.50 per individual and £1 for teams of four. Further details from the NAR & PC, 13 The Circle, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9EE. Tel: 021 427 3618.

Huntington Open

Newly formed Huntington FTC are holding their first open shoot on April 27th, starting at 11 a.m. at North Lane, Huntington, two miles north of York. The shoot will include silhouettes, decoy pigeon, long range and a pistol range. Further information from Dennis Woodcock on 0904 762698.

Charity Shoot

Stockport & District AC are holding the 1986 Multiple Sclerosis Charity shoot on May 3rd. Further details are available from Clive Aldred at 32 Worsley Crescent, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire. Tel: 061 483 8902.

Swallows Shoot

Swallows Outdoor FTC are holding their first open field target competition on May 11th. The venue is the Wigmore Football Ground, Worthing, Sussex, access to which is via Beeches Avenue, off A27 Broadwater-Worthing road.

There will be ten different ranges, including a knockdown, bird, long-range and pistol shoot — plus various fun shoots and a plinking range. The BASC Roadshow will also be present and the club hope to have a few trade stands. Ample parking is available at the ground and refreshments will be available.

Further details from Pete Grainger at 36 Pines Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 9JQ. Tel: 0903 30585.

Wellbrook News

Wellbrook Shooting Centre in Mayfield, Sussex are holding monthly open competitions throughout 1986 on May 25th, June 15th, July 6th, August 3rd, September 21st, October 19th, November 23rd and December 21st. The club are also holding their sixth open airgun hunter shoot on July 27th for the Chris Potter Shield.

Wellbrook is open every day except Mondays for practice from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and further details are available from Wellbrook SC, Wellbrook Farm, Mayfield, East Sussex, TN20 6EH. Tel: 0435 873230.

Welsh Open

Blaenau Gwent ARC are once again hosting the Welsh Open Field Target Championships at Tredegar House Park, Newport, Gwent on June 1st. The events will include a main, vermin, long-range and pistol shoots and for further details contact the event organiser, R. Watkins, at 69 Newall Street, Abertillery, Gwent, NP3 1EJ. Tel: 0495 212962.

Mad March Shoot

Rivington Riflemen held their Mad March air rifle shoot on March 2nd — and mad it was. Unknown to the competitors the targets you missed counted, not those you hit! This certainly brought some fresh faces onto the winning rostrum, with S. Dickinson taking first place. A consolation prize also went to D. Bramhall who only managed to miss 2 ex 20.

The Mad March shoot was just one of many events Rivington Riflemen hold every Sunday at their range, with others such as Little v Large, Snooker, Cricket, Practical Field Target with 25 knockdown targets set over 70 acres, and Handicap Team shoots. They also hold monthly trophy shoots, inter-club competitions, indoor events and have an on-going league table. The club meet once a month for a social evening where another pistol range is provided.

With a newsletter circulated to members and gunshops in the north-west — many of whom offer discounts to members — everyone is kept up-to-date with club news.

For further details contact the club secretary, Ian Jones at 2 Brecon Road, Blackburn, Lancs, BB1 3JY. Tel: 0254 61100.

South Wales AR & PC

South Wales 10 m AR & PC held the South Wales Air Rifle Grand Prix at the Bridgend Recreation Centre on February 23rd, with over 150 air rifle and pistol shooters taking part.

The main events started at 12.30 p.m., and the standard of overall shooting was high with far more scores over 65 ex 70 than in past years.

The main event was shot over the 7 yard range, with three competitors tying on 68 ex 70. The shoot-off produced yet another tie and after a sudden death shoot-off A. Morris of Aberdare emerged as champion.

Both the ladies and seniors events produced shoot-offs. Jim Perring and Basil George, both from the Ewenny club tied on 65 ex 70, and in the shoot-off Jim Perring just pipped Basil George by one point.

RESULTS. Champion: A. Morris 68, 2. R. Davies, 3. P. Curtis 68. **Ladies:** 1. L. Roberts 65, 2. M. Millington 65. **Juniors:** 1. T. Monaghan 66, 2. P. Gay 64. **Seniors:** 1. J. Perring 65, 2. B. George 65. **League Team Event:** 1. Newport 394/420 — R. Davies, R. Vincent, S. Leak, S. Daltrey, M. Hopkins, R. Vowles. 2. Bridgend 388 — A. Howe, J. Perring, T. Hughes, S. Thomas, T. Monaghan, J. Watkins. **Club Event:** 1. ISCA Rifles, Newport — C. Jeremiah, R. Davies, A. Buttigieg, R. Vowles. 2. Ewenny Eagles 264 — B. Richards, S. Thomas, I. Jones, A. Thomas. **Half Round Event:** 1. A. Evans 281/300, 2. R. Vowles 280. **Pistol:** 1. A. Brown 279, 2. I. Jones 275. **Team Pistol:** 1. Ewenny A 708/900 — D. Palmer, D. Evans, M. Humphries. 2. Ewenny B 642 — J. Lyons, K. Davies, C. Davies. **10 m Rifle Teams:** 1. Whithead Club 814/900 — M. Hopkins, R. Davies, S. Daltrey, 2. Montgomery 771 — E. Evans, B. Davies, H. Jones.

Miss Meril Humphries, secretary of the club, was presented with a trophy for being the most outstanding pistol shooter over the past three years in the ladies section. The Chairman and Committee would like to thank the sponsors of the event — Celtic Press, Bridgend Shooting Supplies and Goodmans — and thank Mr Allen Vicars, Deputy Chief Constable of Glamorgan, for presenting the trophies and medals.

Next year's event will again be held at Bridgend on February 22nd.

Correction

We would like to point out that Basingstoke AR & PC are not holding a field target shoot on April 27th as stated in the April issue. They are holding, however, an indoor 6 yard and 10 metre shoot, plus an outdoor 25 yard and 50 yard paper target shoot on April 27th.

For further details contact Derek Peckover at 5 Kathleen Close, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 3LN.

Swansea Scorpions

Prescally Scorpions FTC are staging an open shoot at Singleton Park, Swansea on May 25th. The club hope to run a main event of 15 knockdown and 10 vermin targets, and further details are available from Dave Lewis, 39 Bedwas Road, Caerphilly, Mid-Glamorgan, CF8 3AP.

Clay Farm Results

Despite the bitterly cold weather, Clay Farm FTC had a

good turn out for their last four shoots at Clay Farm, Clows Top, near Kidderminster, Worcs.

RESULTS. January 5th: 1. P. Soper, 2. J. Myszk & J. Vickers. **Ladies:** 1. B. Edwards, 2. B. Potter, 3. E. Grinnall. **Juniors:** 1. D. Middleton, 2. A. Callow, 3. P. McMasters. **January 19th:** 1. D. Wilson, 2. K. Smith, 3. M. Hymas. **Ladies:** 1. B. Edwards, 2. B. Potter, 3. K. Smith. **Juniors:** 1. S. Haslam, 2. D. Middleton, 3. P.

McMasters. February 2nd: 1. J. Vickers, 2. M. Hymas, 3. P. Soper. **Ladies:** 1. E. Grinnall, 2. B. Potter, 3. Gaynor. **Juniors:** 1. A. Chater, 2. A. Bourne, 3. A. Bailey. **February 16th:** 1. A. Jones, 2. D. Wilson, 3. J. Vickers. **Juniors:** 1. S. Gilbert, 2. P. Middleton, 3. R. Bufton.

Clay Farm FTC's club shoots are held on the first and third Sundays in the month. Further details from Ella Grinnall, 10 York Street, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs. Please enclose an SAE.

Fixtures at a glance

April 19th-20th

Scottish AR & PA Open Championships, Inverclyde National Sports Training Centre, Largs, Scotland.

April 20th

Open Field Target shoot, Pontefract ARC, Hensall Range, near Snaith, West Yorks. Tel: Pontefract 701169.

Field shoot, Fodarm FSC, Glyn Farm, Redbrook, off A466, Glos. Tel: 0594 33908.

April 27th

Indoor 6 yard and 10 metre shoots plus outdoor 25 yard

and 50 yard paper target shoots, Basingstoke AR & PC, Beechdown Squash Club, Down Grange, Basingstoke, Hants. Tel: 0256 51861.

Open shoot, Huntington FTC, North Lane, Huntington, York. Tel: 0904 762698.

May 4th

Field shoot, Fodarm FSC, Glyn Farm, Redbrook, off A466, Glos. Tel: 0594 33908.

Open shoot, Rivington Riflemen (north-west shooters only). Tel: 0254 61100.

May 11th

Open field target shoot, Swallows FTC, Wigmore Football Ground, Worthing, Sussex. Tel: 0903 30585.

Open field target shoot, Thirsk AWC, Felixkirk Shooting grounds, 3 miles from Thirsk on A170. Tel: Thirsk 24991.

Open shoot, Don Valley FTC, Warmsworth, Doncaster, Yorks. Tel: 0302 723977.

May 18th

Open Field shoot, Fodarm, FSC, Glyn Farm, Redbrook, off A466, Glos. Tel: 0594 33908.

Open shoot, Ormesby ARC, The Sun Inn, Chop Gate, Cleveland. Tel: Middlesbrough 821567.

May 25th

Open field target shoot, Thirsk AWC, Felixkirk Shooting grounds, 3 miles from Thirsk on A170. Tel: Thirsk 24991.

Open shoot, Prescally Scorpions FTC, Singleton Park, Swansea, Glamorgan. Open shoot, Wellbrook SC, Wellbrook Farm, Mayfield, Sussex. Tel: 0435 873230.

May 26th

Field Target shoot, Bucks AR & PC, Morris Range, London Road, Wendover, Bucks. Tel: Penn 2710.

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Viscount Sporter .177	£169.00
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Viscount Sporter .22	£169.00
Viscount Sporter Left Hand .22	
Viscount Tyrolean .177	£169.00
Viscount Tyrolean Left Hand .177	
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Viscount Tyrolean Left Hand .22	
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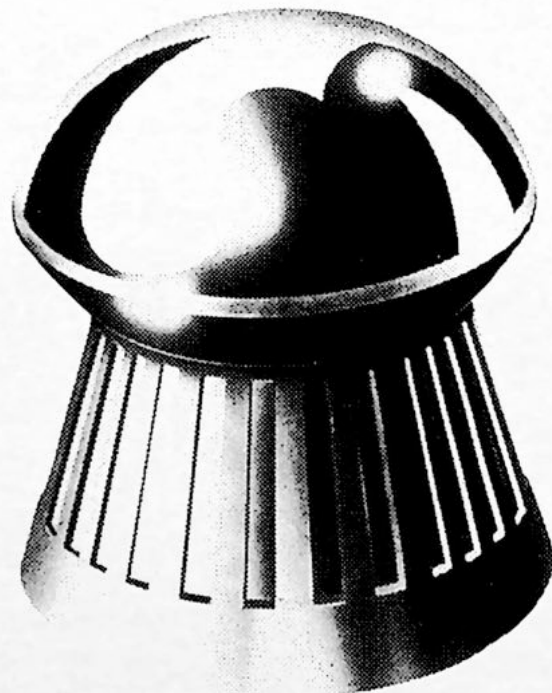
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CLUB FINDER

Airgun World is constantly being asked for information on airgun clubs in various areas so, to save you time and money, we've decided to publish all the club details we have on our files. If you have any problems with the addresses or telephone numbers listed here, contact us and we'll look into the matter for you. And if you'd like your club included in the directory, just drop us a line with your club's name, secretary's address and telephone number.

AVON

Avon Hawks ARC, Nancy Griffiths, Meadow Edge, Bristol Road, Churchill, Avon, BS19 5NJ. Tel: 0934 852951.
Mendip Fieldmen, Dave Horsell, 3 The Twynings, Kingswood, Bristol. Tel: 0272 616880.
Yatton ARC, Graham Snook, 53 Chescombe Road, Yatton, Bristol, BS19 4EU. Tel: 0934 835305.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Markyate ARC, John Ford, 17 Moor End Close, Eaton Bray, Beds. Tel: 0525 221697.

BERKSHIRE

Herschel AWC, John Ballard, 17 Atherton Court, Eton, Windsor, Berks, SL4 6BN. Tel: 0753 866590.
Old Windsor R & PC, Dave Clements, 35 Ashbrook Road, Old Windsor, Berks, SL4 2LT. Tel: 0753 863577.
Reading & DAC, Mrs Irene Carter, 3 Shipley Close, Woodley, Reading, Berks, RG5 4RT. Tel: 0734 693590.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Bucks AR & PC, Tony Denyer, 12 Stockfield Close, Hazlemere, Bucks. Tel: 049481 2710.
Burnham & DR & PC, B. Veal, 16 Stanhope Road, Burnham, Bucks, SL1 6JS. Tel: 06286 63949.
Chiltern ARC, John Sparks, 45 Bournehall Avenue, Bushey, Herts. Tel: 01 950 4713.
Hazlemere AR & PC, John Howe, 18 Carrington Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. Tel: 0494 30754.
Marlow R & PC, P. Pearce, 3 Spinners Walk, Marlow, Bucks. Tel: 06284 5414.

CHESHIRE

Stockport & DABC, Clive Aldred, 32 Worsley Crescent, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire. Tel: 061 483 8902.
Wilmslow RC, J. Krause, 4 Fern Lea, Heald Green, Cheshire, Cheshire, SK8 3RB. Tel: 061 437 9903.
Windmill Hill FSC, Mrs Y. Banlin, 5 Norton Hill, Windmill Hill, Runcorn, Cheshire, W97 6QE. Tel: 0928 710167.

CLEVELAND

Ormesby ARC, Andrew Knox, 31 Westminster Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS5 6NF. Tel: 0642 821567.

CORNWALL

Launceston ARC, Alfred Rowe, Maxworthy Farm, North Patherwin, Launceston, Cornwall. Tel: 056685 239.

CUMBRIA

Barrow ARFC, John Wallwork, Honeysuckle Corner, 149 Park Avenue, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA13 9BN.

DERBYSHIRE

Countryman AC, Peter Burgess, 27 Briarwood Ave, Droylsden, Manchester, M35 7RQ. Tel: 061 370 8259.
Matlock AR & PC, W. Cheng, 32 The Knoll, Tansley, Matlock, Derbys, DE4 5FN. Tel: 0538 723586.

DEVON

Exmouth APRC, F. Payne, 22 Marcom Close, Exmouth, Devon. Tel: 0395 275643.
Torbay ARC, Ray Dunn. Tel: 0803 528036.

DORSET

South Dorset FTC, Alan Forrest, 15 Overton Walk, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 7TR. Tel: 0258 51114.

DURHAM

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ESSEX

Colne Valley AGC, A. Bonnett. Tel: 07875 2582.
Essex County R & PA, Mrs P. Holland, 51 Risdens, Pinceybrook Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 7NL.
Highwood Field AWC, Dave Dixon, 102 Shepherds Hill, Harold Wood, Romford, Essex. Tel: 04023 49257.
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Newland Hall Sporting ARC, Richard Bailey, Newland Hall, Roxwell, near Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4LH. Tel: 024531 463.

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Trent Valley Marksmen FTC, Graham Henderson, 33 Messingham Road, Scunthorpe, South Humberside. Tel: 0724 847303/872941.

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Maldstone AR & PC, T. Boardman, 53 Sidney Street, Maidstone, Kent. Tel: 0622 27102.
Medway AR & PC, Alan Reed, 5 Eden Road, High Halstow, Rochester, Kent, ME3 8ST. Tel: 0634 252961.
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Sevenoaks & DAWC, Fred Innes, 72 Wickenden Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3PW. Tel: 0732 456673.
South East AWC, Steve Cobb, 46 Kent House Lane, Beckenham, Kent. Tel: 01 659 4708.
Swanley AR & PC, M. Munro, 11 Hever Wood Road, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6HL. Tel: 047485 2140.

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Rivington Riflemen, Ian Jones, 2 Brecon Road, Blackburn, Lancs. BB1 3JY. Tel: 0254 61100.

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Whitton AWC, Raymond Evans, 8 Deni Dene Close, Stanwell, Staines, Middx. Tel: 07842 44516.
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Rushden & DARC, J. Parkinson, 85 Highfield Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9QJ. Tel: 0933 311433.
Sywell AWC, Steve Waite, 15 Anne Road, Welborough, Northants. Tel: 0933 223464.

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Victory AC, Peter Wilkinson, 5 Alandene Avenue, Wainall, Notts. Tel: 0602 389133.

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Thame & DARC, M. Trivett, 3 Rectory Cottage, Adwell, Tetworth, Oxon, OX9 7DH.
Windrush AR & PC, N. Tinson, 88 Richens Drive, Carterton, Oxon, OX8 3XP. Tel: 0993 843009.

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Kings Head ARC, Michael Hodgkiss, 30 Datelands West, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 1DQ.
Telford FTC, Richard Johns, Bayley Hills House, High Street, Edmond, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8JR. Tel: 0952 813157.

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SUFFOLK

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Honington & DARC, Clive Pask, 14 Croft Rise, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Tel: 0284 63774.
Pinbush Fieldmen, Derek White, 82 Beccles Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk. Tel: 0502 61455.

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North Downs AR & PC, Barry Blinks, 6 Westbourne Road, Addiscombe, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 6HP. Tel: 01 654 1926.

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Lavant Larks ARC, Peter Bodking, 63 Springfield Close, Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0YZ. Tel: 0243 774574.
Swallows AGC, P. Grainger, 36 Pines Avenue, Worthing, Sussex, BN14 9TO. Tel: 0903 30585.
Wellbrook SC, R. Robinson, Wellbrook Shooting Centre, Mayfield, Sussex, TN20 6EH. Tel: 0435 873230.

TYNE & WEAR

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WEST MIDLANDS

Albert Marston ARC, Shirley Allsop, 34 Willow Road, Finchfield, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV3 8AF. Tel: 0902 335887.
Birmingham & DARL, June Kekey, 25 Croft Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B26 1SG.
Kings Heath AR & PC, A. Brown, 6 Hayfield Gardens, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 9LE. Tel: 021 449 9592.
Moorpool AR & PC, Sheila Preece, 13 The Circle, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9EE. Tel: 021 427 3618.
Rough Wedge FTSC, Gary Holland, 48 Coalway Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, West Midlands, WS32 2PU. Tel: 0922 408053.
Stourvale Woodmen, R. Garlon, 70 Park Lane, Wednesbury, West Midlands. Tel: 021 556 4946.

Warley ARL, A. Kingscott, 40 St Mary's Road, Bearwood, Warley, West Midlands. Tel: 021 429 5927.
Wyken AR & PC, F. Tudor, 28 Sommerville Road, Wyken, Coventry, CV2 5GY. Tel: 0203 454060.
Yorkwood ARC, I. Buckley, 77 Reaburn Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 7LQ. Tel: 021 360 3653.

WILTSHIRE

Thamesdown AR & PC, K. Montgomery, 32 Copse Avenue, Swindon, Wilts. SN1 2PX. Tel: 0793 44541.

WORCESTERSHIRE

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Droitwich Spa FTC, P. Fern, 10 Homestead, Chawson, Droitwich, Worcs. Tel: 0905 778809.
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YORKSHIRE

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Huntingdon FTSC, D. Woodcock, 7 Meadow Way, Green Acres, Huntingdon, York. Tel: 0904 762698/400162.
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SCOTLAND

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Balerno & Currie RC, F. Bannister, 94 Lanark Road West, Cume, Midlothian, EH14 5LA. Tel: 031 449 2524.
Clyde AR & PC, Tony Brennan, 4 Empress Drive, Ardencaple Estate, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, G84 8QL.
Dumfries & Galloway FTAC, Robert Morgan, Inishoven, Castle Douglas Road, Dumfries. Tel: 0387 53330.
Edinburgh & DAWC, Bernard Gallivan, 12 Forthview Road, Blackhall, Edinburgh, EH4 2DE. Tel: 031 332 1465.
Falkirk & DAWC, Andrew Mould. Tel: 0324 26917/20457.
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Glenrothes R & PC, R. Harvey, 13 Alland Street, Leslie, Fife, KY6 3LA.
Hawthornden SC, T. Brotherstone, 78A High Street, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian. Tel: 031 660 5555.
Livingston TC, Donald Nicholson, 16 Ivanhoe Rise, Dedridge, Livingston, Lothian. Tel: 0506 410446.
North-West Hunters, Ian Hill, 29 Birch Court, Old Monkland Road, Coatbridge, ML5 5ED. Tel: 02096, Sauchie, Alloa, FK10 3BU. Tel: 0259 217386.
Sneddon SG, 53 Black Sneddon Street, Paisley, Glasgow. Tel: 041 848 1849.
Vale ARC, S. Porter, 158 Nobleston, Bonhill, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire, G83 9DF. Tel: 0389 56623.
Westfield ARC, Trevor Davis. Tel: 041 952 5529.
Westwood ARC, James Kerr, 49 Carnick Road, Cumbernauld, by Glasgow. Tel: 02367 20695.

WALES

Blaenau Gwent ARC, John Parker, 28 Granville Street, Abertillery, Gwent, NP3 1NR. Tel: 0495 211498.
Cambrian RC, Mrs C. Hodges, The Caretaker's House, St Mairs Day Centre, Aberdare, CF44 0TH.
Caepridilly AR & PC, Simon Jones, 44 Coronation Street, Trethomas, Gwent. Tel: 0222 864710.
Newport Rangers ARC, Alan Jones, 41 Baldwin Street, Newport, Gwent, NP2 2LU.
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Pontypridd ARC, G. Williams, 1 Niagara Street, Treforest, Pontypridd, Glamorgan, CF37 1BP. Tel: 0443 492815.
Quarry Rifles, Des Pask, 62 Hamilton Street, Canton, Cardiff, CF1 9BQ. Tel: 0222 23689.
South Wales AR & PC, Basil George, Ivy Cottage, Ogmore Road, Ogmore by Sea, Mid-Glamorgan. Tel: 0656 4440.
Whiteheads R & PC, Roger Davies, 21 Belvedere Terrace, Newport, Gwent. Tel: 0633 858617.
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Below: A 1936 cover of Shooting Times, advertising the .22 BSA air rifle.

Johnstone replaced F.T. Murray as managing director in 1922, but I have not located either Mr Fearn or Mr Statham.

Then I discovered an old photograph, taken in 1940, of employees of the firm who had 25 or more years service with the company. The gunworkers are there in spotless white gunmaker's aprons, while others in lounge suits would be office and technical staff. With the aid of a magnifying glass I located a Mr J. Fearn! Asked to make a guess at what he did, I would say 'Drawing Office'. He is not shown as J.W. Fearn but simply as J. Fearn. Since all those present are given but one initial this might have been a convention of the period and this could well be 'our' J.W. Fearn.

Of the elusive Mr Statham I learned nothing. Contact with the works ensured that a search was made in existing records, and apart from the fact that Albert Edward Statham did work for the company nothing more could be discovered. Since he does not appear in the 1940 photograph we can assume that he had either retired or had died by 1940. Perhaps we might learn a little more about these three men and their part in the design and development of Webley airguns?

If we stay for a little longer with British airguns we can move south of Weaman Street to Small Heath in Birmingham, where we find BSA. If my pocket calculator is correct the BSA company is 125 years

Collector's corner

by Geoffrey Boothroyd

LAST MONTH, I mentioned the patents associated with the Webley Senior Mk II air rifle. I said that the one which described the 'bolt' locking of the barrel on the Mk II was in the names of the company — Webley & Scott Ltd, Weaman Street, Birmingham — and Albert Edward Statham.

Being of a curious nature I was interested in Mr Statham and wondered who he was. I was unable to find out whether or not he had been responsible for any other patents connected with airguns or, indeed, with any other type of gun.

Names associated with Webley in the earlier patents are Douglas Vaughan Johnstone and John William Fearn. Of these two, we know something of D.V. Johnstone since he was a senior official of the company and, in addition, had been a Guardian of the Birmingham Gun Barrel Proof House. Since it would have been of interest to know exactly what role these three people played in the design and development of Webley air pistols and rifles I have tried to discover what positions they held in the company.

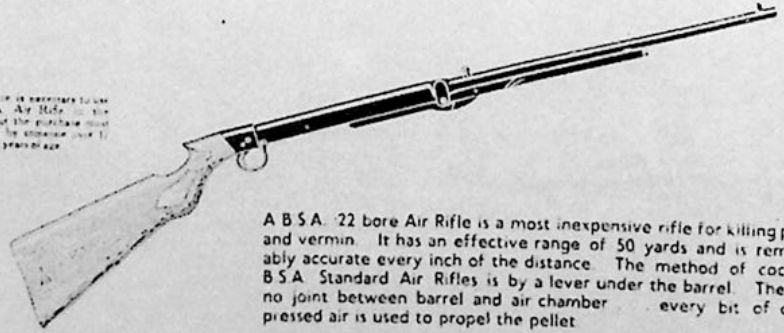
All give as their address 81-91 Weaman Street, the address of the company, so we do not have their private address. A search of the literature reveals that Douglas



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Price of model illustrated

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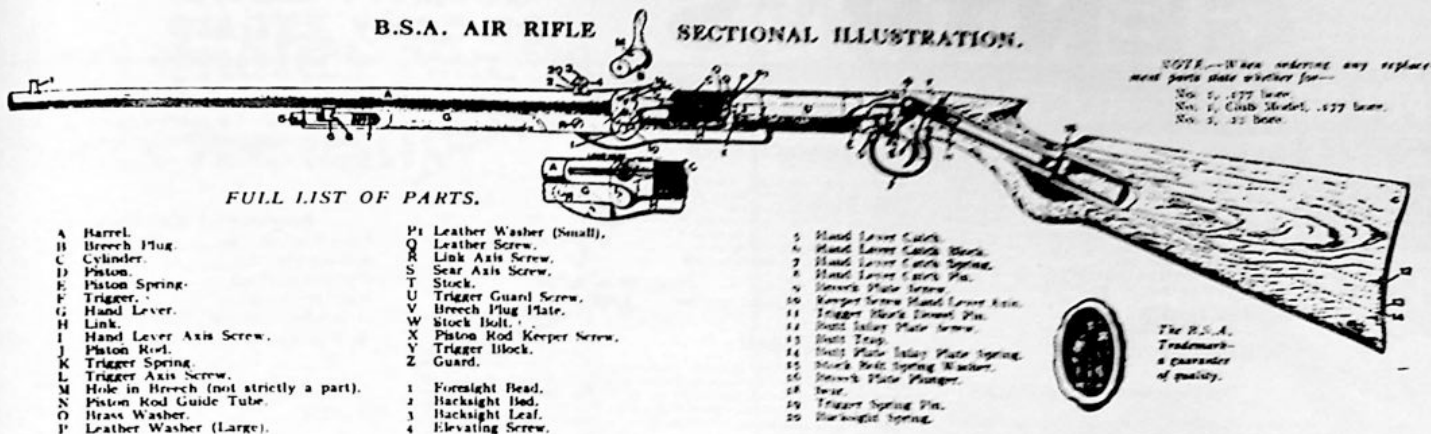
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B.S.A. AIR RIFLE SECTIONAL ILLUSTRATION.



FULL LIST OF PARTS.

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A Barrel. | Pi Leather Washer (Small). | 5 Hand Lever Catch. |
| B Breech Plug. | Q Leather Screw. | 6 Hand Lever Catch Bolt. |
| C Cylinder. | R Link Axis Screw. | 7 Hand Lever Catch Spring. |
| D Piston. | S Sear Axis Screw. | 8 Hand Lever Catch Pin. |
| E Piston Spring. | T Stock. | 9 Trigger Spring. |
| F Trigger. | U Trigger Guard Screw. | 10 Trigger Spring Hand Lever Axis. |
| G Hand Lever. | V Breech Plug Male. | 11 Trigger Spring Pin. |
| H Link. | W Stock Bolt. | 12 Trigger Spring Pin. |
| I Hand Lever Axis Screw. | X Piston Rod Keeper Screw. | 13 Trigger Spring Pin. |
| J Piston Rod. | Y Trigger Block. | 14 Trigger Spring Pin. |
| K Trigger Spring. | Z Guard. | 15 Trigger Spring Pin. |
| L Trigger Axis Screw. | | 16 Trigger Spring Pin. |
| M Hole in Breech (not strictly a part). | | 17 Trigger Spring Pin. |
| N Piston Rod Guide Tube. | | 18 Trigger Spring Pin. |
| O Brass Washer. | | 19 Trigger Spring Pin. |
| P Leather Washer (Large). | | 20 Trigger Spring Pin. |

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old this year. The origins of the company go back to an association of some 20 Birmingham gunmakers who contracted to supply military rifles during the Crimean War.

Eleven of the associates were shareholders in a new company formed in 1861 — the Birmingham Small Arms Company Ltd — with premises in Steelhouse Lane and Armoury Road, Small Heath, Birmingham. This new corporate venture was an attempt to follow the success of the London Armoury Company, and also to combat the threat to the private sector of Government involvement in military small arms following the establishment of the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock in Middlesex.

The earlier association, which went under the name of the Birmingham Small Arms Trade, had been established in 1854. Shareholders in the new company came mainly from the gun trade — names like Bourne, Hollis, Swinburn and Tranter were well known — but the new company differed in that manufacture was undertaken on the new interchangeable system or, as it was sometimes known, the American system.

This represented a completely new philosophy of manufacture. Today you are quite confident that the replacement parts you buy for your Webley or BSA airgun will fit, even though several years may separate the original manufacture of the airgun and the date of manufacture of the replacement. In the mid 19th century this was not the case. New parts for guns had to be 'fitted', and was often a lengthy and expensive process.

The new BSA company was formed to make guns on the new plan, and initially the company concentrated on the manufacture of military rifles. Some 20,000 Short Enfield muzzle-loading rifles were produced for the Ottoman Empire, and although the company suffered a setback during the 1860s, with the termination of the American Civil War, the conversion programme for the Enfield rifle to the breech loading Snider resulted in useful Government orders. The company also participated in the manufacture of the new Martini-Henry.

Dependence on Government orders for military weapons — the SMLE bolt action rifle and the Lewis gun — resulted in fluctuations in the company's fortunes and efforts were made to diversify into other

The standard sectional illustration showing the BSA's components.



Details of BSA's range of air rifles from the 1934 A.G. Parker & Co Ltd catalogue.

outlets such as cartridges, bicycles, motorcycles and cars. Sporting rifles and shotguns were also made.

As with many other companies, dependence on machine tools reduced the flexibility of the company, since the traditional gun trade was organised in such a manner that quite severe changes in demand could be allowed for. Machines which lay idle cost money and BSA dealt with this problem by supplying the gun trade with ready machined components.

One such firm was Lincoln Jeffries (Collector's Corner, February 1986). Jeffries had patented what was to become a highly successful underlever cocking air rifle in 1904, and BSA supplied most of the components for assembly by the firm of

Lincoln Jeffries. How long BSA retained their premises in Steelhouse Lane is unknown to me, but by 1899 Lincoln Jeffries had moved to 121 Steelhouse Lane from Whittall Street, and five years later BSA were making parts for the air rifle for them.

By 1905 BSA had begun to assemble the complete rifle for Lincoln Jeffries, starting with serial number 1130. Having built up experience in the manufacture of what was to become an outstanding air rifle BSA turned this experience to good use by modifying the manufacturing technique.

Their patent no. 11,817 of June 6th, 1905 describes a method of forming, in one piece, the barrel, breech piece — to which the cocking lever is attached — and the boss for the air cylinder. The techniques of forging and deep drawing required quite sophisticated machinery, but it improved the manufacturing quality and resulted in a more robust airgun.

The last of the BSA manufactured and assembled Lincoln Jeffries air rifles, no. 23529, dates from 1909. Air rifles made and assembled by BSA and sold by them with the BSA Piled Arms trademark began with no. 1130 in 1905. All the guns with the integral barrel, the subject of the 1905 patent, bear the BSA trademark.

There is still some confusion about the early years of manufacture as to who did what. Philip Plotkin, who used to work for BSA, is naturally enough a collector of BSA airguns. In a recent letter to me he has posed a number of very interesting questions.

As yet I do not have all the answers, but in spite of the usual problems of communication some replies are coming in. One reader has promised helpful co-operation and given me his telephone number — no name, no address. The phone number would have been adequate — except I can get no reply!

John Kibbs, of P & J Springs, Blackfirs Lane, Bickenhill, West Midlands, who supplies parts for BSA air rifles is putting together a book on BSA airguns which will do much to dispel the clouds of doubt and despair which surround much of the present state of our knowledge of the pre-1939 production.

Next month I will put down some of the data I have collected as a sort of stop-gap until John's book, hopefully, will set the record straight!

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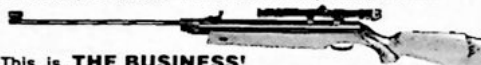
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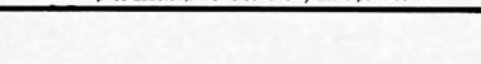
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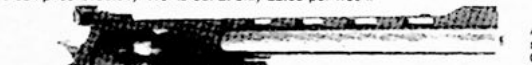
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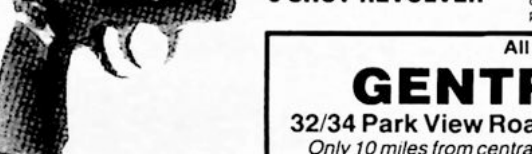


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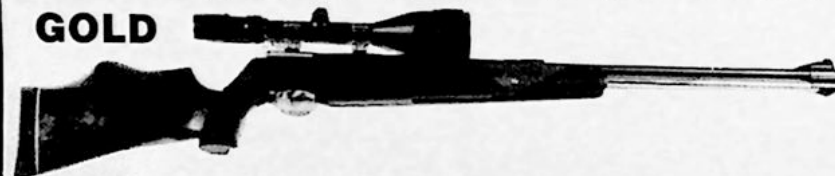
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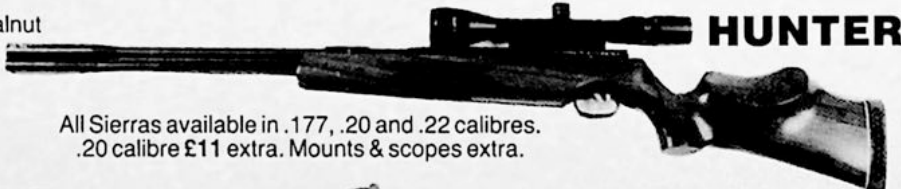


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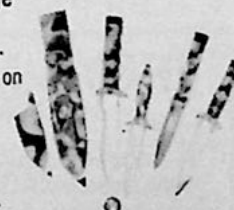
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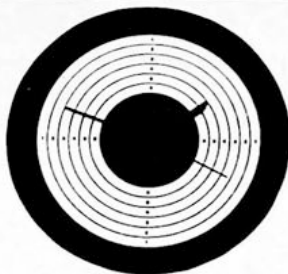
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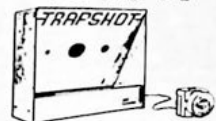
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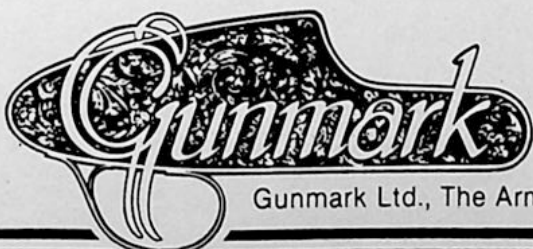
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